

# Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at  
**Riverwalk Theatre**

Season 34 • Number 2  
**September, 2022**

228 Museum Dr. • PO Box 12249 • Lansing, MI 48901 • 517-482-5700 • Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 am to 5 pm • e-mail: RWT@riverwalktheatre.com • web site: RiverwalkTheatre.com

## Bell Book & Candle Promises Witchy Fun

Gillian Holroyd is a witch living in New York City's Greenwich Village in the late 1950s. When she encounters charming publisher Shepherd Henderson, she decides to make him hers by casting a love spell — with a dash of spite, because Henderson is engaged to her old college rival. When Gillian finds herself actually falling for Shep, she faces a problem: She will lose her powers if she falls in love.



PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

Experienced director Amy Rickett (of recent acting acclaim for playing the stern nun of Riverwalk's award winning *Doubt*) was intrigued to note that the Jimmy Stewart Kim Novak movie of this story was adapted from a play. She discovered that the play was the inspiration for the TV show *Bewitched*. She thought, "...we could have fun and make some magic!"

Lewis C. Elson, playing Shep, is a new face at Riverwalk, a classically trained, English actor with extensive experience in British theatre, who has come to the USA to start a new life with his wonderful partner, Sally. He has meshed well with Director Amy's encouraging, play-around-with-it directorial style and is looking forward to his future in American theatre.

Another newcomer is Margo Guillory as Aunt Queenie. She is a UCLA Theater, Film, and Television graduate with a B.A. in Theater and Acting. While living in L.A., she pursued multiple film projects including short films, mini TV series and web series, as well as theater projects including Shakespeare, Chekov, *The Vagina Monologues*, and various plays. She says, "We have come together to share a really enchanting and magical story that I hope we can all spend a couple hours getting swept away by!"

The rest of the cast is a list of local favorites including our lead witch, Caila Conklin, who recently impressing us musically in the *Louder Than Words*

revue. She was previously seen in Riverwalk's *Winter Cabaret*, *A Piece of My Heart* and in the ensembles of *Hairspray* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. When not acting onstage, Caila performs with her band, *Our Attic*.

Nick Lemmer, so I'm told, has pledged to forego the hirsute look of the publicity picture above for a more 50's look before opening night. Nick has performed with Ixion and LCC and is looking forward to sharing the stage with this all-star cast — which includes our outgoing Riverwalk president, Jeff Magnuson. Check out his loooong acting resume at Matt Ottinger's wonderful database, [lansingtheatre.org](http://lansingtheatre.org). Jeff last graced the Riverwalk stage in *The Elephant Man*, 2019, also directed by his wife, Amy.

Director Amy reports, "Our show will be using a live cat as Pyewacket and I want to encourage our audience to help support the Ingham County Animal Shelter and Capital Area Humane Society with donations and/or adoption. I want to thank everyone for returning to the theatre after Covid. We consider it a privilege to be back on stage producing live theatre for an audience."

**Bell Book and Candle** opens Thursday, September 22. Remember, Riverwalk requires our audience to be masked, and the Thursday, 7pm shows will be sold at half capacity so patrons can be seated at greater social distance. Call 517-482-5700 for reservations.

## WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

🎭 September 22-October 2 - **BELL, BOOK AND CANDLE** - Magical Drama by John Van Druten, Directed by Amy Rickett - Black Box Stage

🎭 October 20-30 - **FABULATION or the RE-EDUCATION OF UNDINE** - SerioComedy by Lynne Nottage, Directed by Rose Jangmi Cooper - Main Stage

🎵 December 8-18 - **A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD** - Family Musical by Arnold Lobel, Directed by Tom Ferris - Main Stage

**A** December 11-12 - Sun/Mon 7pm - **AUDITIONS for MISERY**, Directed by Ayden Soupal

**A** Dec. 19-20 - Sun/Mon 7pm - **AUDITIONS for KINKY BOOTS**, Directed by Kelly Stuibale

🎭 February 9-19 - **MISERY** - Thriller by William Goldman based on the Stephen King novel, Directed by Ayden Soupal - Black Box Stage

🎵 March 2-12 - **KINKY BOOTS** - Musical by Harvey Fierstein, Music by Cyndi Lauper, Directed by Kelly Stuibale Clark - Main Stage

🎭 **PLAYS:** (both black-box & main stage) 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. Fri./Sat./Sun. \$15 (\$12 sr/student/military) **Bargain Thursdays \$12/\$10**

🎵 **MUSICALS:** 7 pm Thursdays; 8 pm Fri./Sat.; 2 pm Sundays - \$24 (\$20 sr/student/military) (\$12 age 12 & under)

**A** **AUDITIONS** - more info at [riverwalktheatre.com/auditions](http://riverwalktheatre.com/auditions)

★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** More info at [RiverwalkTheatre.com](http://RiverwalkTheatre.com)

# Nothing Small About Riverwalk's "Big Fish"



L to R: Kameron Going, Brian Farnham, Emily Stokes

PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

Flying fish, an articulate giant, circus performers, General Patton, and dancing elephant butts. Riverwalk's August production of *Big Fish* had all that and more.

The full-blown musical (with music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa) also included an ever-changing assortment of distinctive costumes by Amanda Macomber. The 24 energetic cast members changed outfits continuously during a two-hour-forty-five-minute-with-intermission show that had countless scene changes.

The *Big Fish* book by John August (based on the Daniel Wallace novel) reveals the complex and fantasy-filled life of Edward Bloom.

Kameron Going embodied the outrageous, storyteller dad and Brian Farnham was convincing as Will—the son frustrated with trying to know the truth of Dad's phantasmagorical past. As the compassionate mom, Emily Stokes drew laughs and tears from audiences that often howled their approval.

Following the acclaimed acting by Albert Finney, Ewan McGregor, and Jessica Lange in the beloved 2003 *Big Fish* Tim Burton movie, is a daunting undertaking.

Going, Farnham, and Stokes can be proud of their ability to deliver their own respectable and memorable versions of the dad, son, and mom.

All the Blooms really blossomed when they belted out emotional songs performed by a professional band directed by Zach Everly. Ny'Kieria Blocker's witch, Kali Langschwager's high school sweetheart, and Quinn Kelly's ringmaster also offered singing that could flatten corduroy.

Singing praises for Dale Wayne Williams' directing is justified for his skill in shepherding such a large cast—and for tackling such a complicated musical. With frequent shifts in time and place, *Big Fish* is a difficult script to bring to life. Wayne Williams—who had a genuine affection for the musical—skillfully accomplished the task.

Ayden Soupal (assistant director and stage manager) and Norah Logan (assistant stage manager) helped make that happen. The running crew of Rachel Daugherty, Tianna Leon, and Edwina Riddle also deserve kudos for repeatedly shifting Liz

Cooke's appropriate props and set pieces designed by Katie Mueller. The trio's ability to smoothly switch scenes—while assisting with costume and prop changes—was impressive.

The 14 ensemble players merit praise for their vocals, character morphing, and dancing to Amanda Tollstam's inventive choreography.

Luka Pawsek's ability to move (and dance!) gracefully on stilts to portray Karl the giant was another unforgettable part of Riverwalk's *Big Fish*.

Even young actors like Daniel Beaver as the young Will, and Camryn Cardwell as Will's son, were scene-stealers. It was an admirable first appearance on a Riverwalk stage for several of the cast members. Newcomers to acting in a musical like Stephanie Constan (Dr. Bennett) and ensemble members, Lainie Plunkett and Trina Rowell performed like pros.

Riverwalk's ambitious return to live musicals after COVID shutdowns with *Big Fish* was an often dazzling reminder how its main stage can be a unique and entertaining escape.

By David Winkelstern



L to R: Ny'kieria Blocker, Daniel Beaver, Kameron Going  
photo by www.ariniko.com



Emerging Playwrights  
RIVERWALK THEATRE

Emerging Playwrights is a play-writing competition sponsored by Riverwalk Theatre. The competition is open to high school students in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties.

Students in grades 9-12 are invited to write short one-act plays and submit them to the competition. Five plays will be selected for production and each author will receive a \$1000 prize.

Complete details are available at the RWT website by scanning this QR code.



# A U D I T I O N S

*Thriller by William Goldman, based on the novel by Stephen King*

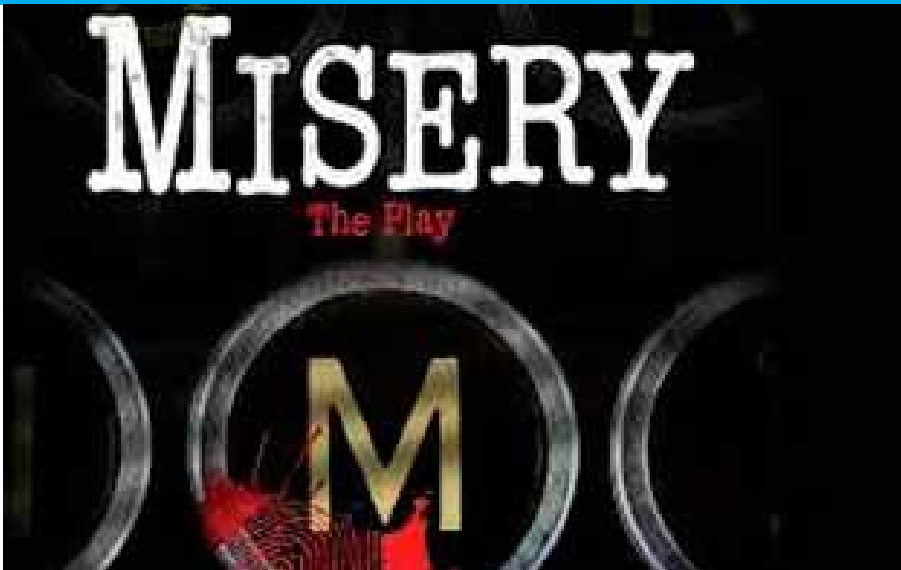
*Directed by Ayden Soupal*

*Audition Dates: Sun & Mon, December 11 & 12, 2022 at 7pm*

*Production Dates: February 9-19, 2023*

Famous romance novelist Paul Sheldon is rescued from a deadly car accident by his “number one fan,” Annie Wilkes, and is stuck inside her secluded home. Annie forces Paul to write her a new book as if his life depended on it — which it does.

*All three of these roles are open to any race; ages are flexible.*



**PAUL SHELDON** - Successful romance novelist who is kidnapped by Annie Wilkes. For most of the story he is weak and fragile, since he barely survived a devastating car wreck, but he grabs some courage along the way. Staying alive is his number one objective. Male, 40s-50s.

**ANNIE WILKES** - Crazy “number one fan” of Paul Sheldon. Manipulative, bossy, psychotic, with some anger management issues sprinkled on top. Frequently jumps from

one side of the emotional spectrum to the other in a second. She has her rules about life and the behavior of others, and doesn’t like people going outside those barriers. Female, 40s-50s.

**BUSTER** - Officer investigating the disappearance of Paul. Grows more suspicious of Annie as the show goes on. Brave and loyal. Male, 30s-60s.

Come prepared to read from the script.

**PERUSAL SCRIPTS** for all shows are available at the Riverwalk office, Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 5:30 pm. Call 517-482-5700 to check availability: [rwt@RiverwalkTheatre.com](mailto:rwt@RiverwalkTheatre.com) audition forms are available online at [www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html)

**MEMBERSHIP** still funds at least a quarter of show budgets plus general operating expenses to maintain our building and staff.

**WE’RE COUNTING ON YOU FOR A SECURE FUTURE!**

**Actor** — \$15-24, Ripples, voting on board members & Members Choice favorite show award.

**Technician** — \$25-49, Ripples, voting, program listing

**Stage Manager** — \$50-99, Ripples, voting, program listing, and one comp ticket

**Director** — \$100-249, Ripples, voting, program listing, two comp tickets

**Producer** — \$250-499, Ripples, voting, program listing, four comp tickets

**Star** — \$500-999, Ripples, voting, program listing, six comps, name on theatre seat

**Angel** — \$1000+, Ripples, voting, program listing, 12 comp tickets, name on a theatre seat and on the donor board in the lobby

**THREE WAYS TO JOIN:** go to [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com) - click “more” then “get involved” to join online — OR phone Mike with your credit card info 517-482-5700 — OR just mail a check to Mike at the office, P.O. Box 12249, Lansing 48901. We’re 501c3 tax deductible.

## Earn FREE donations to Riverwalk when you shop online!

Earn money for Riverwalk Theatre when you shop at Amazon. For every qualifying purchase you make at Amazon Smile, Amazon will give a portion of your total purchase amount to Riverwalk. It is the same company and your same account. **There is no cost to Riverwalk or to you.** The web site is the same. Once you register, you never need do anything again except shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Here’s how:

- Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)
- Bookmark this site—you must shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to get the donation

to Riverwalk. Shopping at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) will not provide a donation.

- On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be asked to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. A window will

pop up to ask you what organization you want your donation to go to. No other information is requested. **Be sure to select Community Circle Players, Inc.** which, as you probably know, is Riverwalk Theatre’s official name. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

THAT’S IT. Do your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and support Riverwalk Theatre.

Mike says he periodically gets checks from Amazon now. Let’s shop to make those donations larger. THANK YOU!



## RIVERWALK

### 2022-2023 Officers

President.....Brian Farnham  
Admin. VP .....Kate Clark  
Production VP .....Shannon Bowen  
Treasurer ..... Michele Booher-Puroskey  
Secretary..... Elisha Smith,

### 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Darrin Fowler  
Leon Green  
Sarah Hayner  
Bernie Lucas  
Amanda Macomber  
Scott Mandel  
Lauren Mudry  
Scott Pohl  
Ayden Soupal  
Julian VanDyke  
Linda Widener  
Aaron Wittbrodt

Ripples is published by Riverwalk Theatre. Submit info to Editor Jane Zussman (jszussman@gmail.com) or Riverwalk Manager Mike Siracuse (rwt@riverwalk-theatre.com) 517-482-5700 or at RiverwalkTheatre.com



P.O. Box 12249  
Lansing MI 48901

Next to Impression 5,  
228 Museum Drive, south  
off Michigan Avenue,  
across from the  
Lansing Center



# NO DONATIONS

The Costume Shop run by Riverwalk Theatre is NOT currently accepting drop-off donations. Please do not leave any clothing or material outside. Costume shop employees can help you find an alternate place for your donation, or make an appointment to evaluate a

specific item. Inquire at [costumes@riverwalktheatre.com](mailto:costumes@riverwalktheatre.com). You can always stop by the **NEW COSTUME SHOP OPEN HOURS. Monday and Fridays 4-6:30 pm.** Check out the vast array of costumes and think about HALLOWEEN! 1131 May St., Lansing, MI 48906

**RIVERWALK THEATRE**  
The Campaign FOR ACT 2

**BELL BOOK & CANDLE**

**SEPTEMBER 22-25, 29-30**  
**OCTOBER 1-2, 2022**  
*Black Box Stage*

*Drama by*  
**John Van Druen**

*Directed by*  
**Amy Rickett**

Supported in part by MICHIGAN ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL • NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS • COMMUNITY FOUNDATION • ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER LANSING



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

