

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 34 • Number 8
June-July, 2023

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

HUGE INDOOR MOVING SALE JULY 14-15

LOOKING FOR A BARGAIN? HERE IT IS!

The Riverwalk Costume Shop on May Street has to move and will be downsizing. We're selling military uniforms, formals, Halloween costumes (Who doesn't need a chocolate-chip-cookie costume?) vintage clothing items, clothing perfect for Renaissance festivals... Come check it out!

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

In addition to items from the costume shop, there are also many items from the prop loft as well as the many, many items that generous supporters of Riverwalk have contributed: books, household items, tools, golf equipment and much more. See the

more detailed—but not complete—list of available items on page 4.

In addition, we'll have two DRAWINGS for the free RENTAL of one COSTUME of your choice from The Costume Shop (hats and shoes not included.)

Everyone who attends the sale will be eligible to enter.

This will be an indoor sale so you don't need to be concerned about the weather. Rain or shine, hot or cold, we will be indoors and comfortable.

The sale will be held at Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive in Lansing on July 14 and 15 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day.



Major credit cards will be accepted.



WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

★ Fri. & Sat, July 14 & 15, 9 am-4 pm - **COSTUME SHOP MOVING SALE** - Black Box and Rehearsal Hall

A Sun/Mon, July 16 & 17 at 7 pm - **AUDITIONS for ADMISSIONS**, Directed by Bob Robinson

A Tues-Thur, July 18-19-20 at 7 pm - **AUDITIONS for THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW** (callbacks 7/21-22) Directed by Shannon Bowen and Erin Hoffman

★ Sat., August 5 at 7 pm - **EMERGING PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL** - Award-winning high-school-student-written short plays (see page 4)

★ Sat. & Sun., August 12 & 13 from 11 am to 3 pm **DIRECTING FOR THE THRUST STAGE WORKSHOP** - taught by award-winning director, Mary Job - (see page 3)

A Mon., August 28 at 7 pm - **AUDITIONS for AMADEUS - roles of Mozart and Salieri only.** Other roles 1/21-22 Directed by Amy Rickett

🕒 **ALL SHOWS:** 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. (Rocky Horror only: both 8pm & 11 pm Fri. & Sat.; no Sundays)

🗣️ **PLAYS:** \$15 (\$12 sr/student/military)

🎵 **MUSICALS:** \$24 (\$20 sr/student/military) (\$12 children under 13)

A **AUDITIONS** - more info at riverwalktheatre.com/auditions

★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** More info at RiverwalkTheatre.com

Since *Peter and the Starcatcher* is a prequel to *Peter Pan*, part of the fun was spotting references and filling in the origin stories of Peter Pan, Captain Hook, Mrs. Darling and Tinkerbell.

This somewhat convoluted script by Rick Elice, based on the novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, is an adventure story, mystery and juggling act. Two ships with two mysteriously switched trunks and a father and daughter on separate vessels, make their way to Rundoon Island. Adventuring daughter meets orphan boys — pirates and mayhem ensue and the magic of “star stuff” is demonstrated in many ways.

Director/choreographer Brian Farnham was a master-juggler, in service of this script, with the help of a lively cast/crew flipping crates and ropes and more, flying and tossing folks overboard in artistic and dramatic ways — aided by a razzle dazzle of lighting effects from designer/programmer James Brunk. Music director Angie Schwab led a small but excellent combo with keyboard, piano and percussion. Elisha Smith’s scenography was lovely. Costumes

Starcatcher: Magical!



Black Stache (Joe Dickson) points the way to Smee (Jillian Stauffer)
PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

(Amanda Macomber) were wild and wonderful (especially Stache’s fabulous tie-patchwork robe) and Kayla Henry produced magical makeup and hair. (Black Stache’s mustache was Joe Dickson’s own creation, however — and he also designed the appropriately scary sound.)

Yes, Joe Dickson was allowed to escape the tech world and let his Actor Flag fly as the hilarious villain wannabe Black Stache, destined for fame as Captain Hook. His swish-

ing and swashbuckling and deliciously snide comments were a treat, enhanced by the silly devotion and helpful corrections of his right hand man, Smee, wonderfully played by Jillian Stauffer.

Matthew Weisner was a tall but boyish “no name” orphan destined to become Peter Pan, abetted by his very cute fellow orphans, Daniel Beaver and Lyla Pople. Brave Molly Aster was beautifully played by Ava Taube, a bit too independent for her noble Starcatcher dad, Lord Aster, played with a dash of fatherly frustration by Frank Boston. Molly’s delightful attendant/nurse Mrs. Bumbrake was charmingly portrayed by the tall but demure Luka Pawsek, and

romanced by the ruffian pirate Alf (Joe Clark).

Anthony Mandalari was powerful as pirate Bill Slank, and Lainie Plunkett scared us a bit, too, as the Fighting Prawn leading her mollusk army. Sara Lehman was particularly graceful as all manner of animals and mermaid “Teacher”. The ensemble was amazing, performing dancing/lifting/special-effect-ing, pirate-ing and the rest. The macho mermaid scene that opened the second act was a highlight! *Jane Zussman*



Hail and Farewell, Ken Beachler

Arts icon Ken Beachler died at home of cardiac complications on June 6 at the age of 87. Well known as the founding Executive Director of MSU’s Wharton Center, he was also active in area theatre, and a longtime supporter of Community Circle Players both at the Okemos Barn and at Riverwalk.

Beginning in 1971 at the Barn, he directed *Riverwind*, *Godspell*, *Follies*, *Loot*, *Dylan*, *Boys in the Band*, then at Riverwalk beginning in 1994, *Just the Two of Us*, *Little Mary Sunshine*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Later Life*, *Conditional Love*, *Master Class*, *Equus*, *Lonely Planet*, *Dracula*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *Far East*, *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* (RWT at Creole/black box), *The Ritz*, *Miss Evers Boys*, *Fortinbras* and, again, *Follies*.

Ken was also an actor (search his name on Matt Ottinger’s Database www.lansingtheatre.org) most recently performing on our stage as

Mr. Dussel in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. His mellifluous voice was legendary and impressive as the Voice of God in *Spamalot* (also as the climactic recorded Voice of Lord Rancour in Starlight Dinner Theatre’s *Something’s Afoot*.) His final role was the irascible Henry Wendell in *The Vote* special-event at Riverwalk in 2020.

I have very fond memories of the five Beachler-directed shows in which I performed — and in my years of program editing, I note that Ken was always the first to donate to Riverwalk in memory of anyone he knew who had died. So I’m writing a check to RWT in Ken’s memory — though his family reports that memorial contributions can also be made to the Kenneth C. Beachler Arts Management Internship Fund, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing, MI 48824. Ken established this internship fund for arts management students. *Jane Zussman*

A U D I T I O N S

Role listings and further info are at riverwalktheatre.com/auditions

ADMISSIONS - AUDITIONS: Sun-Mon, July 16 & 17 at 7 pm

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW - AUDITIONS: Tue-Thur, July 18-20 at 7 pm

AMADEUS - AUDITIONS for two leading roles - Mozart & Salieri - Monday, August 28 at 7 pm

General *Amadeus* Auditions for other roles: Sun-Mon, Mar. 21-22 at 7 pm

PERUSAL SCRIPTS for all shows are available at the Riverwalk office, Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 5:00 pm. Call 517-482-5700 to check availability: rwt@RiverwalkTheatre.com
audition forms are available online at www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions

Barney Awards Celebration - 22-23

Once again, our favorite Barney Host, Matt Ottinger, led us through a long but lovely program that raised whoops and cheers from a full house for scenes/songs celebrating our past season's shows. We enjoyed Matt's host-a-licious charm and quips — plus his surprise appearance wearing the bright red *Kinky Boots*!

Thanks to directors Amanda Tollstam and Sarah Hayner and to the Judges: Kathy Booth, Tim Donal, Diane Gardin, Bill Kennedy, Bob Purosoky, Heath Sartorius and Ralph Sims. **The winners are in bold**, followed by nominees who averaged at least 8 on the 10-point judging scale.

Lead Actor - Musical: Brian Farnham as "Will Bloom" in *Big Fish*; Kameron Going as "Edward Bloom" in *Big Fish*; Connor Kelly as "Frog" and Quinn Kelly as "Toad" both in *Frog & Toad*; Zach Husak as "Charlie" and Jordan Taylor as "Lola" in *Kinky Boots*; Mathieu Wiesner as "Peter" in *Starcatcher*

Lead Actor - Play: Scott Pohl as "Paul Sheldon" in *Misery*; Lewis Elson as "Shep Henderson" in *Bell Book & Candle*

Lead Actress - Musical - Ava Taube as "Molly Aster" in *Starcatcher*; Emily Stokes as "Sandra Bloom" in *Big Fish*; Elaina Coscarella as "Lauren" in *Kinky Boots*

Lead Actress - Play: Gini Larson as "M'Lynn Eatenton" in *Steel Magnolias*; Caila Conklin as "Gillian Holroyd" in *Bell Book & Candle*; Vanessa Mazhangara as "Undine" in *Fabulation*; Holly Sleight Engler as "Annie Wilkes" in *Misery*; Laura Croff as "Truvy Jones" in *Steel Magnolias*

Supporting Actor - Musical: Joe Dickson as "Black Stache" in *Starcatcher*; Luka Pawsek as "Karl" and Quinn Kelly as "Amos Calloway" in *Big Fish*; Dale Wayne Williams as "Don" in *Kinky Boots*; Daniel Beaver as "Ted" and Frank Boston as "Lord Aster" both in *Starcatcher*

Supporting Actor - Play: Nick Lemmer as "Nicky Holroyd" in *Bell Book & Candle*

Supporting Actress - Musical: Ny'Kieria Blocker as "The Witch" in *Big Fish*; Kaela Panicuci as "Josephine" in *Big Fish*; Giselle Ulsep as "Nicola" in *Kinky Boots*; Jill Stauffer as "Smee" and Lyla Pople as "Prentiss" both in *Starcatcher*

Supporting Actress - Play: Taylor Haslett as "Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie" in *Steel Magnolias*; Margo Guillory as "Miss Holroyd a.k.a. Aunt Queenie" in *Bell Book & Candle*; Caila Conklin as "Annelle Dupuy-Desoto" in *Steel Magnolias*

Featured Actor - Musical: Luka Pawsek as "Mrs. Bumbrake" in *Starcatcher*; Tim Edinger as "Don Price" in *Big Fish*; Josh Henrikson as "Turtle" and Caleb Liggett as "Lizard" both in *Frog & Toad*; Erik Drake as "George" in *Kinky Boots*; Joe Clark as "Alf" and Anthony Mandalari as "Bill Slank" both in *Starcatcher*

Featured Actor - Play: Jeff Magnuson as "Sidney Redlitch" in *Bell Book & Candle*; Jules Overfelt as "Buster" in *Misery*

Featured Actress - Musical: Lainie Plunkett as "Fighting Prawn" in *Starcatcher*; Kali Langshwager as "Jenny Hill" in

Big Fish; Kat Koehn as "Snail" in *Frog & Toad*; Lauren Spadafora as "Pat" in *Kinky Boots*; Sarah Lehman as "Teacher" in *Starcatcher*

Featured Actor-Play: Amy Rickett as "Ouiser" in *Steel Magnolias*; Pepper the Cat as "Pyewacket" in *Bell Book & Candle*; Gloria Vivalda as "Clairee" in *Steel Magnolias*

Ensemble - Musical: Ensemble in *Big Fish*; "Birds & Goo-ops" in *Frog & Toad*; "Angels" in *Kinky Boots*; Teacher's Ensemble in *Starcatcher*

Ensemble - Play: all multiple-role players in *Fabulation* - (all except lead actress, Undine)

Director - Musical: Brian Farnham, *Starcatcher*; Dale Wayne Williams, *Big Fish*; Tom Ferris, *Frog & Toad*; Kelly Stuible-Clark, *Kinky Boots*

Director - Play: Meghan Eldred-Woolsey, *Steel Magnolias*; Amy Rickett, *Bell Book & Candle*; Rose Jangmi Cooper, *Fabulation*; Ayden Soupal, *Misery*

Musical Direction - Carin McEvoy, *Kinky Boots*; Zach Everly, *Big Fish*; Kait Wilson, *Frog & Toad*; Angie Schwab, *Starcatcher*

Choreography: Karyn Perry, *Kinky Boots*; Amanda Tollstam, *Big Fish*; Fran Ludington, *Frog & Toad*; Brian Farnham, *Starcatcher*

Costume Design: Amanda Macomber, *Bell Book & Candle*; Amanda was also nominated for *Big Fish*, *Misery* and *Starcatcher*; Ashley Hampton, *Fabulation*; Kris Maier, *Frog & Toad*; Zoe Schultheiss, *Kinky Boots*; Desirae Taylor, *Steel Magnolias*

Mary Job Offers Free Thrust-Stage Directing Workshop



Riverwalk has a great thrust stage. How can directors use it effectively to provide a great viewing experience for all three audience sides?

This two-day workshop will boost your directing chops by showing you how to use set pieces, body positions, movement, and other elements of staging to create blocking that maximizes the unique properties of a thrust stage.

Saturday & Sunday August 12 & 13, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on the main stage. Free of charge, donations and membership encouraged.

RENEW!

Fiscal/membership year started July 1; time to renew — and maybe upgrade your member level!

THREE WAYS TO JOIN: go to 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.

RIVERWALK

2022-2023 Officers

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Ripples is published by Riverwalk Theatre. Submit info to Editor Jane Zussman (jszussman@gmail.com) or Riverwalk Manager Mike Stracuse (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

Barneys cont. from page 3

Set Design - Aja Jenks, *Steel Magnolias*; Katie Mueller, *Big Fish*; Leroy Cupp, *Bell Book & Candle*; Tom Ferris, both *Fabulation* and *Frog & Toad*; Derek Soupal & Leroy Cupp, *Misery*; Andrew Snyder, *Kinky Boots*; Brian Farnham & Elisha Smith, *Starcatcher*

Set Dressing: Meghan Eldred-Woolsey, Patty Wieber, Michele Booher-Purosky, *Steel Magnolias*; Dale Wayne Williams, *Big Fish*; Mara McGill, *Bell Book & Candle*; Bernie Lucas, *Fabulation*; Ann Carlson, *Kinky Boots*; Brian Farnham, *Starcatcher*

Lighting Design: James Brunk, *Starcatcher*; Ted Daniel, both *Big Fish* and *Bell Book & Candle*; Steve Vangel, *Fabulation*; Tom Ferris & Alan Greenberg, *Frog & Toad*; Amy Jo Brown, *Misery*; Ade Anderson, *Kinky Boots*; Kayleigh Rust, *Steel Magnolias*

Sound Design: Leon Green, *Frog & Toad*; Jamie Felcher, *Big Fish*; Leon Green, *Bell Book & Candle*; Clint Hoagland, *Fabulation*; Heath Sartorius, *Misery*; Ade Anderson, *Kinky Boots*; Michele Booher-Purosky & Patty Wieber, *Steel Magnolias*; Joe Dickson, *Starcatcher*

Props Design: Erin Biel, *Steel Magnolias*; Liz Cooke, *Big Fish*; Mara McGill, *Bell Book & Candle*; Bernie Lucas, *Fabulation*; Sarah Hayner, *Frog & Toad*; Michele & Tracy Smith,

Misery; Erin Hoffman, *Kinky Boots*; Aaron Wittbrodt, *Starcatcher*

Scenography: Tom Ferris & Kat Koehn, *Frog & Toad*; Dale Wayne Williams, *Big Fish*; Ric Sadler, *Bell Book & Candle*; Tom Ferris, *Fabulation*; Kat Soupal, *Misery*; Meghan Eldred-Woolsey, Patty Wieber, Michele Booher-Purosky, *Steel Magnolias*; Elisha Smith, *Starcatcher*

Hair & Makeup: Lori Bailey-Smith, *Steel Magnolias*; Erin Biel, *Big Fish*; Susie Perazza, *Frog & Toad*; Amanda Macomber, *Misery*; Delicious, *Kinky Boots*; Kayla Henry, *Starcatcher*

Backstage Barneys: Ayden Soupal, *Big Fish*; Jan Ross, *Bell Book & Candle*; Diane Cooke, *Fabulation*; Linda Widener, *Frog & Toad*; Taylor Smith, *Misery*; Ade Anderson, *Kinky Boots*; Patty Wieber, *Steel Magnolias*; Elisha Smith, *Starcatcher*

Howard Lancour Newcomer: Norah Logan, *Big Fish*; Miles McAvoy, *Kinky Boots*; Lyla Pople, *Starcatcher*

Sharon Straubel Uncategorizable Award; Derek Soupal, *Misery* Special Effects; Adam Carlson, *Big Fish* Elephant Puppets; Charles Hoogstraten *Frog & Toad* Puppeteering; Zoe Schultheiss *Kinky Boots* drag looks; Amanda Tollstam *Starcatcher* specialty choreography

Marilyn Steegstra You-Take-the-Cake Volunteer Award: Lisa Pappas Costume Shop Volunteer

Bob Gras Black Box Award - Amy Rickett Member's Choice: *Steel Magnolias* favorite play; *Starcatcher* favorite musical



Emerging Playwrights Festival Aug. 5

Eighteen students from seven high schools throughout the tri-county area submitted short play scripts vying for one of five \$1,000 prizes, sponsored by Riverwalk. Winners are:

Sarah Garver, 11th grade, Mason HS with the script *Octavia's Bridge*

Kieran Arnett, 10th grade, Everett HS with the script *Choices*

Molly Weaver, 12th grade, Holt HS with the script *Our Fairytale*

Angel Hobbs, 9th grade, Everett HS with the script *The Most Important Rock/Paper/Scissors Game Ever*

Olivia Quiroga, 11th grade, Holt HS with *The Grass Was Greener*

Come and experience these short scripts at the EMERGING PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL at Riverwalk Theatre on Saturday, August 5 at 7pm - free of charge; donations accepted.

Octavia's Bridge and *Choices* will be full productions. *Our Fairytale*, *The Most Important Rock/Paper/Scissors Game Ever*, and *The Grass Was Greener* will be staged readings.

"There is a lot of talent in our high schools," said Tom Ferris, member of the Emerging Playwrights committee at RWT. "We are excited to give area students a chance to show off their work."

HUGE INDOOR MOVING SALE

FRI/SAT. JULY 14-15 • 9AM-4PM

Indoors
 at Riverwalk!



- Small appliances
- Books
- Collectibles
- Costumes
- Costume Jewelry
- Decorative Items
- Department 56 Globe Theater model
- DVDs, CDs, and VHS tapes
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- Puzzles
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- Uniforms
- Vintage clothes
- Wigs
- Many **FREE** items
- Much, much more!

Supporting moving expenses for The Costume Shop

Cash and major credit cards accepted!

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