

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 34 • Number 1
July/August, 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

BIG FISH Sings and Dances Its Way through the Power of Storytelling

Have you ever wanted to see an 8-foot tall elephant puppet dance? Or maybe a USO kick-line with the most beautiful costumes you've ever seen would tickle your fancy? This show has something for everyone!

In the present-day real world, 60-year-old Edward Bloom faces his mortality while Will prepares to



Kameron Going
PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

become a father himself. In the storybook past, Edward ages from a teenager, encountering a Witch, a Giant, a Mermaid, and the love of his life, Sandra. The stories meet as Will discovers the secret his father never revealed.

Director Dale Wayne Williams is directing for the first time at Riverwalk but has a broad background in all aspects of theatre in the area, recently impressing audiences with his bold "Riff" in Starlight's outdoor West Side Story. He was drawn to this show because of the father-son connection, working out issues

with his own father, often distant due to military duty and work schedule.

Dale says, "I relate to Will, the son in Big Fish, in a way that I've rarely related to a character in a story. I want to direct this show to express that feeling and, in a way, to communicate with my father through a medium that I know we both enjoy: Theatre."

He continues, "This cast is not one to be missed. Powerhouses Brian Farnham and Kameron Going bring the leads to life in a breathtaking way with Emily Stokes and Kaela Panicucci filling out the Bloom family with incredible talent. Featured and supporting characters played by Ny'keria Blocker, Luka Pawsek, Quinn Kelly, Daniel Beaver, and Kali Langschwager create a show that is rich in depth, humor, and love."

Big Fish runs August 18-28 and promises to be a refreshing, AIR CONDITIONED, musical treat to top off your summer. Make plans NOW to attend!

Barney Awards 21-22

The return to live Barney Award Celebration was low-key (Loki?) but fun with our favorite game show host, Matt Ottinger, leading a theatrical Family Feud game in lieu of the usual musical performances. Thanks to Laura Croff in the booth and Shannon Bowen (and her two young sidekicks) it was a fun event for all.

Barney Winners are listed first, in bold; nominees follow. All those averaging over 8 out of 10 in judges' points qualify as nominees.

Lead Actor: Adam Woolsey as "Father Flynn" in *Doubt*; Ayden Soupal as "Jeff" in *Lobby Hero*; Alan Greenberg as "Serge" in *Art*

Lead Actress: Asia Dixon as "Marianne Angelle" in *The Revolutionists*; Rachel Daugherty as "Dawn" in *Lobby Hero*; Shannon Bowen as "Olympe DeGouges" in *The Revolutionists*; Amy Rickett as "Sister Aloysius Beauvier" in *Doubt*

Supporting Actor: Ndegwa McCloud as "William" in *Lobby Hero*; Joe Clark as "Yvan" in *Lobby Hero*

Supporting Actress: Cassie Little as "Sister James" in *Doubt*; Rachel Daugherty as "Charlotte Corday" in *The Revolutionists*

— continued on page 2

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

★ Saturday, August 6 at 1pm - **MEMBERSHIP MEETING** - members will get links via email both to **vote for Board of Directors (by 11:59 August 4)** and to attend the meeting via ZOOM or attend **IN PERSON!**

🎵 August 18-28 - **BIG FISH** - Mysterious Musical, Music & Lyrics Andrew Lipka, Book John August, Directed by Dale Wayne Williams - Main Stage

A September 11-12 - Sunday-Monday, 7pm - **AUDITIONS for A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD** directed by Tom Ferris

👏 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

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

A Dec. 11-12 - Sun/Mon 7pm - **AUDITIONS for MISERY** directed by Ayden Soupal

👏 **PLAYS:** (both black-box and main stage) 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. Fri./Sat./Sun.

\$15 (\$12 sr/student/military) **Bargain Thursdays \$10/\$8**

🎵 **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.html

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

The Revolutionists - Beautiful, Badass, Show

The Revolutionists was a unique opportunity to see four of Lansing's top actresses as "... beautiful, badass, women, losing their heads in this irreverent, girl-powered comedy set in the French Revolution's Reign of Terror."

It is an unusual script by Lauren Gunderson — both modern and historic — scary and somewhat true? At least based on true events and people — with a few points to make about the world today? There's a lot in this script, and as Director Tom Ferris said in his note, "I hope you have as much fun finding the 'message' for yourself as we all had bringing this story to you."

I had never heard of playwright and feminist Olympe De Gouges, but she deserves a Google! The electric Shannon Bowen brought a wide range of emotions and humor to this frustrated and inspired feminist creative force. I loved the theatre/playwright humor. The versatile and ubiquitous Rachel Daugherty (who must have made a deal with the devil to be in almost every play at Riverwalk since she first wowed us in *A Doll's House*) was both sweet and vicious as the assassin Charlotte Corday. (Marat Sade, anyone?) Erin Hoffman was the show's darling diva, a glamorous, hilarious, misunderstood Marie Antoinette. Newcomer Asia Dixon earned her equal billing with these star ladies as the earnest Marianne Angelle,



*L to R, back: Hope Miller, Caleb Liggett, Ric Sadler, Kelly Jo Garland, Merialice Jensen
Middle: Ashley Hampton, Tom Ferris, Danny Ferris, Tessa Norman
Front: Erin Hoffman, Asia Dixon, Rachel Daugherty, Shannon Bowen*

a composite of real historic women fighting for an end to French slavery in the Caribbean. She was probably the most sensible of the bunch.

The costumes (Ashley Hampton) evoked the historic period, with special glam for Queen Marie. The set (Tom Ferris) was simple but effective, with elegant arches

that served as second stages for outside events. Kudos to creator Adam Carlson, and operators Ric Sadler, Danny Ferris and Caleb Liggett for a "special effect" puppet that added drama to Act I I. This show featured "mature themes, language and violence" — but also lot of "Liberté, Egalité, Sororité and Hilarité." Jane Zussman

Barneys continued from page 1

Featured Actor - Andrew Stewart as "Bill" in *Lobby Hero*; Andrew Stewart as "Marc" in *Art*

Featured Actress - Erin Hoffman as "Marie Antoinette" in *The Revolutionists*; Gay Oliliver as "Mrs. Muller" in *Doubt*

Ensemble Award: Cast of *All Together Now*

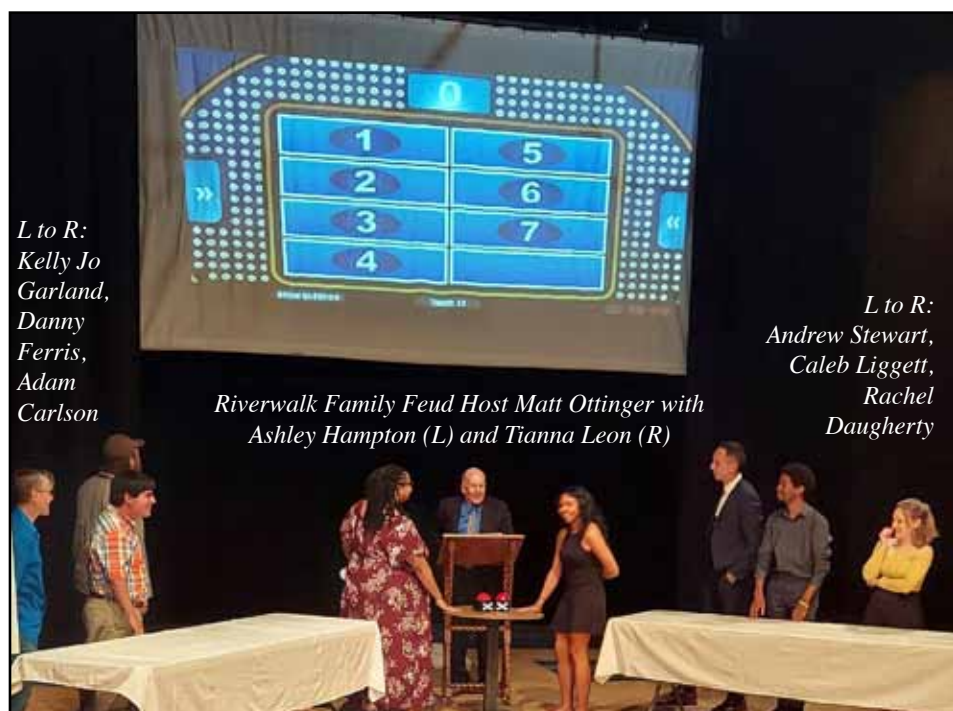
Director Award: Bob Robinson - *Doubt*; George Popovich - *Lobby Hero*; Tom Ferris - *The Revolutionists*; Scott Pohl - *Art*; Tricia Rogers - *All Together Now*

Costume Design: Kris Maier - *Doubt*; Ashley Hampton - *The Revolutionists*; Rachel Kay - *Lobby Hero*; Morgan Pohl - *Art*; Rachel Kay - *All Together Now*

Set Design: Leroy Cupp and Bob Robinson - *Doubt*; Tom Ferris - *The Revolutionists*; George Popovich, Tom Ferris, Leroy Cupp *Lobby Hero*; Leroy Cupp - *Art*

Set Dressing - Scott Pohl - *Art*

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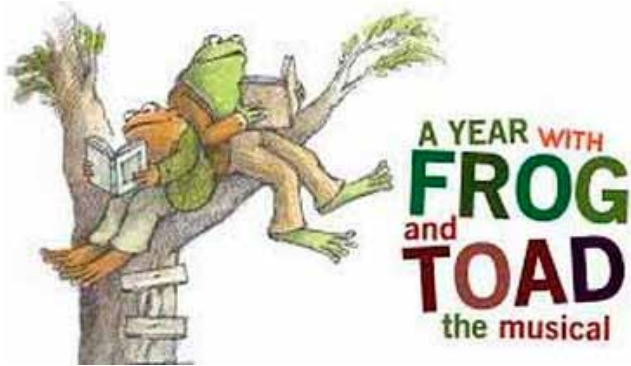


*L to R:
Kelly Jo
Garland,
Danny
Ferris,
Adam
Carlson*

*Riverwalk Family Feud Host Matt Ottinger with
Ashley Hampton (L) and Tianna Leon (R)*

*L to R:
Andrew Stewart,
Caleb Liggett,
Rachel
Daugherty*

A U D I T I O N S



*Book - William Reale, Music - Robert Reale,
Lyrics - William Reale*

Based On The Frog And Toad Books by Arnold Lobel

*Directed by Tom Ferris - Music Director – Kait Wilson,
Choreographer– Fran Ludington*

Auditions: Sun & Mon, September 11 & 12, 2022 at 7 pm

Shows: December 8-11, 15-18, 2022

A Year with Frog and Toad is a whimsical musical that tells the story of two best friends: the cheerful Frog, and curmudgeonly Toad. The musical follows Frog and Toad through four colorful seasons, from hibernation to hibernation. Frog and Toad, along with their playful, quirky friends Snail, Turtle, the Birds, and more, enact many adventures, from rushing down a hill in a runaway sled in the winter, to taking a picnic and a quiet moment in the summer. The joyful vignettes of *A Year With Frog and Toad*, feature catchy tunes, funny dialogue, and bright, memorable characters.

Frog - Male, Baritone
Toad - Male, Baritone
Birds 1 & 2 - Females - Soprano
Bird 3 - Male - Baritone
Snail - Male or Female - Tenor
Mouse - Female - Mezzo-Soprano
Lizard - Male - Tenor

Turtle - Male or Female - Tenor or Mezzo-Soprano
Father Frog - Male - Tenor
Mother Frog - Female - Mezzo-Soprano
Young Frog - Male - Mezzo-Soprano
Large & Terrible Frog - Male - Non-singer
Moles - Male or Female - Mezzo-Soprano
Squirrels - Male or Female

Note on Casting: None of the characters will be in full animal costume; all will be very anthropomorphic. It is possible to expand the cast to include ensemble members of various animal types.

Please prepare an audition piece in a similar musical style.

Be prepared to learn a dance combination and 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
audition forms are available online at www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html



NEW HOURS!

THE COSTUME SHOP

www.RwtCostumeShop.com

Starting August 8th **THE COSTUME SHOP**

1131 May Street, Lansing, 48906

WILL BE OPEN MONDAYS & FRIDAYS 4 - 6:30!

Two days a week instead of one!

Questions? Email us at costumes@riverwalktheatre.com.

Barneys cont. from page 2

Lighting Design: Joe Dickson - *Lobby Hero*; James Brunk - *The Revolutionists*; Ted & Tim Daniel - *Doubt*; Joe Dickson - *Art*; Tricia Rogers - *All Together Now*

Sound Design: Leon Green, *Doubt*; Leon Green - *Lobby Hero*; Leon Green & Kelly Jo Garland - *The Revolutionists*; Scott Pohl - *Art*; Jamie Felcher - *All Together Now*

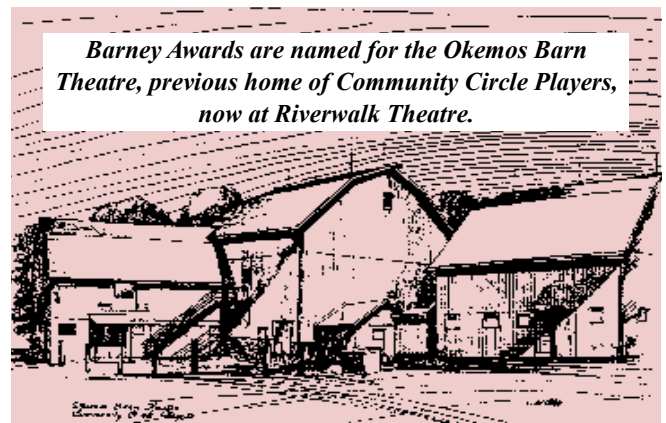
Hair and Makeup: Hope Miller, *The Revolutionists*

Backstage Barneys:

Kris Maier - *Doubt*
Jordan Tay - *All Together Now*
Nick Lemmer - *Lobby Hero*
Bernie Lucas - *Art*
Leroy Cupp, Leon Green & Bob Nees - *The Revolutionists*

SPECIAL AWARDS:

Marilyn Steegstra "You Take the Cake" award: Leora Stutes retiring after decades of ushering
Howard Lancour Newcomer Award: Jamie Felcher for *All Together Now*
President's Award: Hope Rollins & Adrianna Flores
Sharon Straubel "Above & Beyond & OutsidetheBox" award: Adam Carlson puppet creator "*The Revolutionists*"



Barney Awards are named for the Okemos Barn Theatre, previous home of Community Circle Players, now at Riverwalk Theatre.

Thanks to Barney Judges Liz Cooke (chair), Ralph Sims, Kathy Booth, Bill Kennedy, Bob Purosky, Diane Gardin and Miranda Hartmann (Miranda stepped down but did judge the first two shows of the season.)

SEASON TICKETS

8 SHOWS only \$125

Order yours today!

Phone Mike with credit card info 482-5700.

RIVERWALK

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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

Riverwalk Season 34 - Hear Us Roar!

- 8/18-28 - **Big Fish** - Mysterious Musical, Music & Lyrics Andrew Lippa, Book John August, Directed by Dale Wayne Williams - Main Stage - Auditions - June 12 & 13 - 7pm
- 9/22-10/2 - **Bell, Book and Candle** - Magical Drama by John Van Druten, Directed by Amy Rickett - Black Box Stage - Auditions July 24 & 25 - 7pm
- 10/20-30 - **Fabulation - or the Re-Education of Undine** - SerioComedy by Lynne Nottage, Directed by Rose Jangmi Cooper - Main Stage Auditions - July 31 & August 1 - 7pm
- 12/8-18 - **A Year with Frog and Toad** - Family Musical by Arnold Lobel, Directed by Tom Ferris - Main Stage - Auditions - September 11 & 12 - 7pm
- 2/9-19 - **Misery** - Thriller by William Goldman based on the Stephen King novel, Directed by Ayden Soupal - Black Box Stage - Auditions - Dece. 11-12 - 7pm
- 3/2-12 - **Kinky Boots** - Musical by Harvey Fierstein, Music by Cyndi Lauper, Directed by Kelly Stuible Clark - Main Stage - Auditions - Dec. 19-20 - 7 pm
- 4/13-23 - **Steel Magnolias** - Drama by Robert Harling, Directed by Meg Woolsey - Black Box Stage - Auditions - February 19-20 - 7 pm
- 5/4-14 - **Peter and the Starcatcher** - Musical Comedy by Roger Rees & Alex Timbers Written by Rick Elice, Music by Wayne Barker, Directed by Brian Farnham - Main Stage - Auditions - Feb. 19-20 - 7 pm

As we return to a full season, remember, **MEMBERSHIP** still funds at least a quarter of show budgets plus general operating expenses to maintain our building and staff.

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 - click "more" than "get involved" to join online — OR phone Mike with your credit card info 517-482-5700 (and buy a season ticket while you're at it!) — OR just mail a check to Mike at the office, P.O. Box 12249, Lansing 48901. We're 501c3 tax deductible.

Six Decades of Theatre!



Lee Helder — spouse and Chief Advisor of Bill, one of the four "Godparents" of Riverwalk (see lobby portrait) — reaches a milestone birthday August 17. Not to give away her age but she consulted on the CCPHistory (<https://www.riverwalktheatre.com/about-riverwalk.html>) going back to our 1958 origins!

Lee has served on our board and as treasurer. She has directed and performed and costumed many Riverwalk shows, especially children's shows. Her history on Matt Ottinger's great lansingtheatre.org database is loooong — and only goes back to the late 70s, not all the way to Lee's "origins." (Got any old, rare programs? Contact Matt.)

Lee *still* acts, most recently as Salvation Army General Cartwright in *Guys and Dolls*, and as Mrs. Chauvinet in *Harvey*, both for Starlight Dinner Theatre. She's performed in radio plays for Audio Air Force — and she is also a renowned Lego Master.

THANK YOU, Lee, for your service and support for over 60 years! Friends wishing to make an impact in your name and help support the future of our theatre — especially during our recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic — are invited to donate to Riverwalk Theatre in your honor. As with all tribute/memory donations, names will be included on printed programs for a year.

To add a birthday tribute to Lee, send your check to Riverwalk Theatre, P.O. Box 12249, Lansing, MI 48901 or call Mike at the office, and he can process your payment over the phone with a credit card.

Happy Birthday, Lee!



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

