

Hats off to a Fabulous 2022 Season



Possum Point Players

From the President and the Board

Dear Friends of PPP,

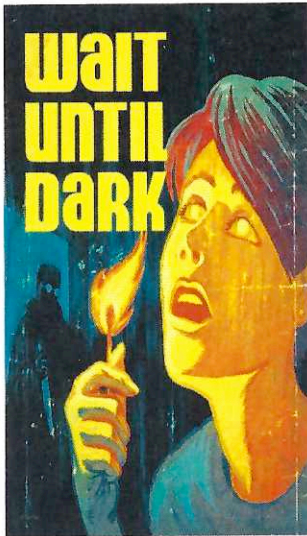
As we look back on 2022 and look forward to our 50th Anniversary season, I am immensely proud of the perseverance and dedication of volunteers and supporters. Your faithfulness to our missions continues to amaze me and for that I am extremely grateful. Little did those original 12 members know back in 1973 that 50 years later, their seed of an idea to start a community theatre group would result in the huge success and stalwart non-profit organization that it is today. I'm sure you are as excited as I am to look towards the future of PPP as we also celebrate our past.

In 2022, happy to be back inside on the stage, after the challenges that the COVID pandemic presented, we were able to present a season of thought-provoking and theatrically challenging productions that included the classic drama *TWELVE ANGRY JURORS*, the challenging musical *A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER*, the Noel Coward comedy classic *HAY FEVER*, the very popular comedy *CALENDAR GIRLS* which sold-out six performances, the kickoff of our 50th Anniversary Celebration Season, and seven sold-out performances of Irving Berlin's *WHITE CHRISTMAS the Musical*. In addition, we began the observance of our 50th Anniversary with a Gala event fund-raiser, *LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO 'ROUND* – a musical revue of songs from many of the musical productions of our 50 years.

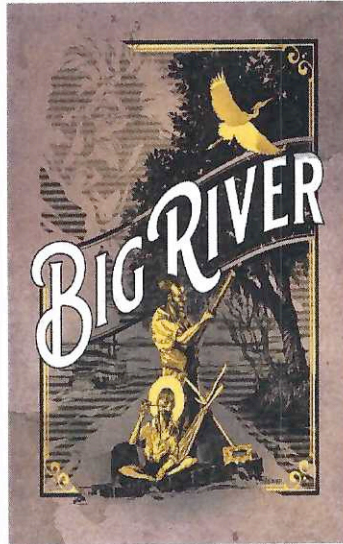
We continue to be blessed with our affiliate groups that provide a schedule of wide-ranging opportunities to participate in the theatre experience outside our main-stage season. Hats off to the Possums Radio Theatre, Possum Juniors, PPP Shakespeare Players, Dreamers United and On The Edge who all continue to provide diverse theatre educational and entertainment options.

As a non-profit organization, we continue to persevere and meet all challenges. This has been made possible due to the generosity of our patrons, state and national grants, memberships and season subscriptions, and fund-raising events. We emerged from 2022 with a certain degree of financial stability and a continued commitment to our stated mission.

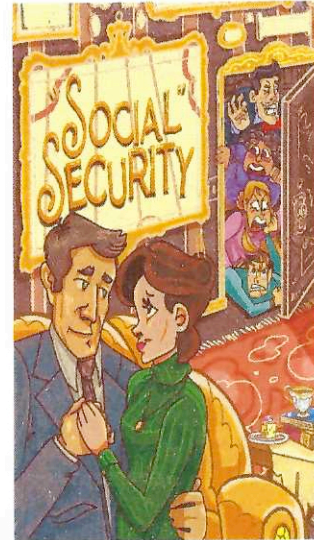
2023 Our 50th Anniversary Season!



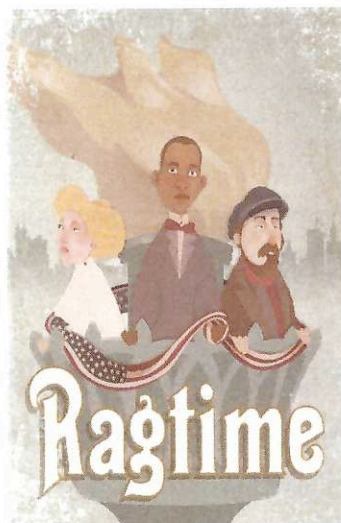
Jan 27, 28, 29
Feb 3, 4, 5



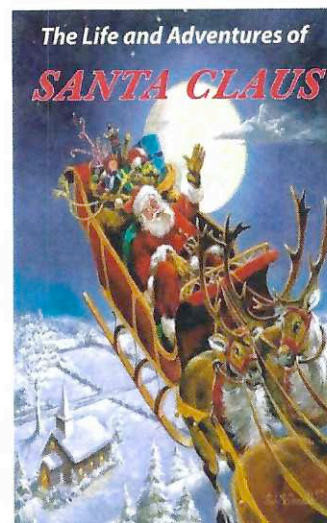
Mar 24, 25, 26
Mar 31 &
Apr 1, 2



Jun 2, 3, 4
Jun 9, 10, 11



Sept 15, 16, 17
Sept 22, 23, 24



Dec 1, 2, 3
Dec 8, 9, 10

Our programs are supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts,
a state agency in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Division promotes art events on DelawareScene.com.

2022 Main Stage Productions

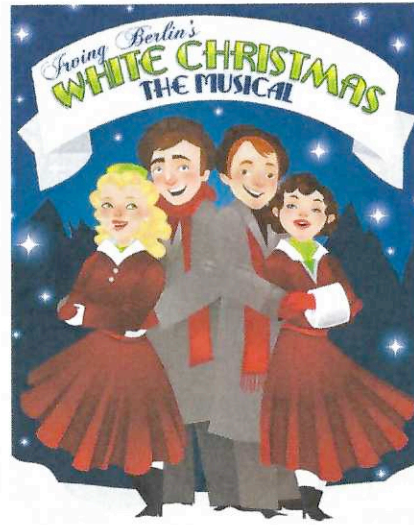


Director ~ Becky Craft

Cast of 14 Actors

6 Sold Out Performances

Audience Attendance ~ 1104



Director ~ Kenney

Workman

Cast of 14 Actors

7 Sold Out Performances

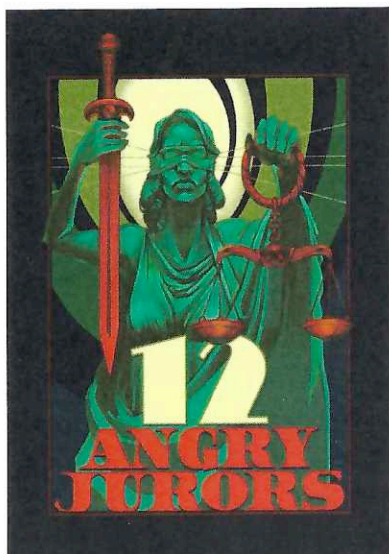
Audience Attendance ~ 1288

Mission Statement

The mission of the Possum Point Players is to be a cultural resource for our region by providing the highest quality community theatre experiences for both artist and audience.

Possum Point Players values diversity and inclusion in casting, and in all other areas of the organization

2022 Main Stage Productions

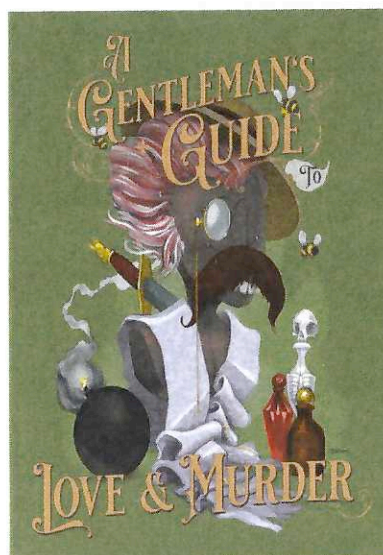


Director ~ Les Ferguson

Cast of 14 Actors

4 Performances

Audience Attendance ~ 656

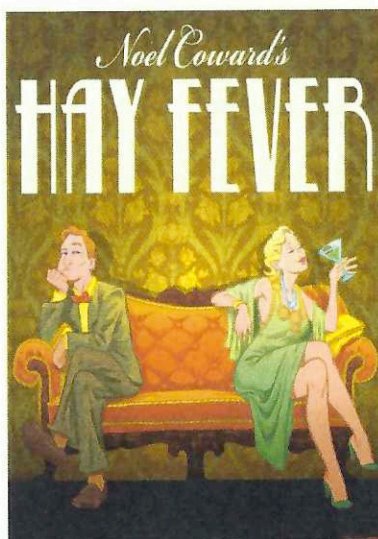


Director ~ Jim Hartzell

Cast of 14 Actors

6 Performances

Audience Attendance ~ 968



Director ~ Meg Kelly

Cast of 9 Actors

6 Performances

Audience Attendance ~ 713

2022 Contributors

Producer's

Delaware Division of the Arts
Longwood Foundation
Sue Mast

Angels

Cheryl & Henley Graves
Jim & Pat Griffin
Jim & Louise Hartzell
Ruth Lawson
Rosanne Pack & Kenney Workman
Mary Lee Phillips & Vince Whapham
Gwyneth & Jonathan Sharp

Benefactors

George Chaloupka
Carol Fitzgerald
Peter Jones
Cecelia Mitchell
Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Policastro

Patrons

Beth Howlett
Edythe Humphries
Regina Montagna
Don & Anne Ward

Sponsors

Diane J. Alpaugh
Cat & Rob Baker
Rachel Berger
Chris Carlin
Fred & Judy Dean
Phil & Mimi Drew
Richard Huffman
John Hulse
Nancy Kaiser & Mary McElhone
Michael Murnin & Pellegrino Coruzzolo
Jay & EJ Panico
Lisa & Andy Salita

Sponsors (con't)

Gina & John Shuck
Margaret Spaulding
Russell & Patricia Stiles
Rain & Jim Tyler
Kevin & Della Zane
John & Fior Zinzi

Friends

Thomas Arheim & Mary Payne
Roger & Sarah Anderson
J. Denise Baker
Scott Beadle & Steve Touzell
Dick & Rita Bittner
Sandra Browning
Susan Bunting
Jim & Barbara DeBastiani
Laurie & George DeSantis
Philip & Nancy Drouin
Gail & Martin Dusbiber
Richard & Marjorie Eckard
Jerry & Fay E.J. Eller
Les & Linda Ferguson
Neil & Jeannie Fleming
Donna Flomp
Nina Galerstein
Jack Gallagher & Denise Seliskar
Pat Hudson
Kim Klabe Fine Art
Harriet Mair
George & Carol Mason
Barbara McClain & Ron Pakula
Elizabeth Messick
Joan Messick
Fern Plecker Morrison
Tim & Janet Murphy
Bill & Ivy Nabors
Bernie & Marilyn Noeller
Emily Peterson
William & Barbara Rivers

2022 Contributors

Friend's (con't)

Gary & Ivy Rogers
Vicki Sammons
Chase Schirmer
Jayne Sheahan
Marsha Shull
Paul Sikoris
Bertha Jean Stitt
Karen Swartout
Diane Trautman &
Tommy Ray Chedester
Leona Tull
Kathy Turner
Ron & Meg Kelly VanLent
Karlton & Bonnie VanTine
Richard & Karen Vhelow
Barbara Warnell & Michael Taylor

Associates

Mitch & Linda Cooper
Harry & Janet Deal
Jack & Kathy Fowler
Judy & Blasé Gavlick
Edith Herron
Ralph Howard
Beth Kramer
Tim & Marian MacMillan
Audrey McMeekin
Tom Middleton

Associate's (con't)

Cathy & Bob Morrison
Ann Nichols
Diane Pepitone
Norma Prettyman
Mary E. Rogers
Jill Stokes
Richard & Lee Wheeler
Frances M. Wingate

Family/Individuals

The Deeter Family
Scott & Donna deKuyper
Helen Dreher
Mary Ann Dzedzy
Carolyn Green
William M. Howlett
Mina Malloy
Steven Perry
Bonnie S. Russell
Linda & Chris Sizemore
Mary Jane Tester
Barry W. Tester

Senior

Elaine Getzlaff
Mike & JoAnn Hennessy
Katherine C. Jones
Dolores Kusman
Tina Sonzogni

Possum Point Players would like to extend
Our Deepest Gratitude to all our contributors for
their financial support!

50th Anniversary Committee

This committee was formed in 2021 to work on our special anniversary celebration year. Michael Murnin, President at the time, appointed Nina Galerstein to be Chair. The committee consists of the following people: Louise Hartzell, Jon Sharp, Gwyneth Sharp, Beth Howlett, Kenney Workman, Rosanne Pack, Cat Baker, and Cheryl Graves.

Starting in the Fall of 2021 and throughout 2022 this committee met at least monthly and worked on many special projects (including choosing the shows for 2023, which will be discussed at the end of this list):

1) Anniversary Gala Show: This wonderful show, which encompassed music from many past shows, was directed by Kenney Workman (with Diane Trautman as musical director) and took place on October 8, 2022. There were 21 in the cast, plus Bob Kelso as Narrator (a past Possum, coming all the way from Asheville, NC). The show was almost sold out and fun for everyone involved!

This special evening also involved champagne and dessert (organized by Louise Hartzell and Cheryl Graves), a silent and live auction (organized by Cat Baker), the flute and violin duo of Nina Galerstein and Becky Elliott, an online auction of stuffed Possums dressed in past show outfits (sewn by Louise Hartzell, online support from John Zinzi), special birthday cake, and a lot of Hall decorations by the whole committee and office staff. The beautiful program was designed by Dawn Conaway.

2) Scrapbook Project: This involved taking all the loose photos and creating new scrapbooks, as well as fixing up old scrapbooks that needed some TLC. The project started with a clean-out of photos and articles by the Hartzell's, Beth Howlett and Nina. This was followed by many hours of fixing up the old scrapbooks and also creating a "History of PPP" scrapbook (which is now on a pedestal in the Hall lobby). These scrapbooks will be on display in the Green Room throughout 2023. The group that worked on this was Nina, Beth, Pat Hudson, and Sandy Browning.

50th Anniversary Committee

3) Puppet Videos: Jim Hartzell was asked to create videos with the original "Carnival" puppets to be shown at the start of each show of our anniversary season. Jim created 5 of these and the first was shown at the Gala. Puppeteers were Beth Howlett, Bill Howlett, Louise Hartzell and Don Megee.

4) Fundraising Through Sponsorship: Jon and Gwyneth Sharp worked on this project, still ongoing, attempting to secure sponsors for each show of the anniversary season.

5) Give-Aways For Each Show: Nina organized all the extra PPP items from the gift shop that have not been sold and these are being given away at each show as a drawing.

6) Big "5 0" in the Lobby: This display was created by Nina, with the original painting done by Whitney Cook. The display itself was worked on by Sue Cassidy and Nina.

7) Publicity: Rosanne Pack worked diligently throughout the year ensuring that the media knew about everything we were doing. She also worked on the possibility of publicizing our theater group in different places, one being the screen ad for the Clayton Theater in Dagsboro, and the other WSDL.

8) Exterior PPP Marquee: Cat Baker and Nina worked on a project for adding "50th Anniversary" to the sign, and Cat was able to find someone to do this for us.

9) \$50 for the 50th: The committee decided to embark on a fundraising campaign, starting in 2021, to raise \$20,000 to pay off the original mortgage. A fundraising speech was given at the start of each show to talk about the anniversary and ask for donations. Cat and Nina created the thermometer for this which is in the lobby. To date we have raised \$12, 500.

10) Show Plaques: In 2023 we will start selling our old show Plaques to anyone that wants them - this is a future project. They have been organized and a few have been sold.

50th Anniversary Committee

11) Puppet Display: Cat Baker got us the lobby Plexiglas display booth (donated) for the original "Carnival" puppets. These have been on display since the Fall of 2021 and will remain throughout the 2023 season.

2023 Show Season:

For this special season it was the 50th Anniversary Committee that chose the 5 main stage shows. These shows were going to be favorites from our past. (In addition, we also determined that the Possum Juniors should do the same: pick a summer show from our list of children's shows, we felt that would honor our history of children's theater). The shows we chose for the anniversary season are:

Holiday 2022:	White Christmas
Winter 2023:	Wait Until Dark
Spring 2023:	Big River
Summer 2023:	Social Security
Fall 2023:	Ragtime

It must also be mentioned that for this anniversary year, members of the committee (and other generous people) donated everything to the Gala, and other projects. This shows how much support we have from our community, not just in actual financial contribution but also in many hours of tireless work.

Submitted By Nina Galerstein



Possum Point Shakespeare Players

On Reading Night, the 2nd Monday of the month, we finished *HAMLET*, led by Peter Klotz, and read *RICHARD III*, led by Sharron Karrow.

In January, we are starting a study of *THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO* in combination with *DREAMERS UNITED* and anyone else who might be interested in the topic of race in Elizabethan society, some stage history, and a discussion of casting in these times. We will take a look at the DVD of Lawrence Olivier's *OTHELLO* in which he attempted to create an African man.

Submitted By Richard Huffman

*We were saddened by the loss of two of our
actresses:*

Stephanie Allman and Maureen Downing.



PPP Radio Theatre

In addition to having readings at Possum on the third Tuesday of each month, we did two live shows in 2022. At our live performances, we create the atmosphere of a network broadcasting studio complete with microphones, sound effects and transcribed music.

The first live performance was on September 8 at the annual Lewes Chautauqua Tent show. It was well-received, with a live audience of approximately 30 guests plus an undetermined number of viewers livestreaming on Facebook and on YouTube.

We did a show on October 27 at the Milford Public Library with about 35 guests. After a brief introduction to some of the popular shows of the "Golden Age of Radio", we presented an episode of Escape-Evening Primrose. This is a frightening tale of a popular department store where nighttime brings a horrifying alternate reality for an uninvited guest.

Our second feature was The Canterville Ghost, a classic ghost tale with an English haunted mansion involving a typical American family.

Submitted By Bernie Noeller

"Great theatre is about challenging how we think and encouraging us to fantasize about a world we aspire to."

William Dafoe

PPP Summer Camp Programs

Possum Point Players summer camps are for young theatre fans entering grades 2-10. The focus is on age-appropriate creative learning, and fun activities focused on developing self-confidence, performance skills and encouraging a curiosity for theatre in a fun and supportive environment.

Counselors, assistants, and helpers are PJ's, former PJ's, and often former campers. Over the course of the week, they work in groups on various theatre skills, exploring theatre history, various themes, singing, dancing and improvisation. Each group creates an original short play that presented at the end of the week as their grand finale...

With the relaxing of Covid restrictions over the summer months we combined the Theatre Academy & Drame Camp into 1 week. The theme being *HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD* introduced the golden years of Hollywood to our young campers. It was a joy hearing Possum Hall filled with children's laughter and watching them create their own interpretation of the Hollywood theme. In just 4 short days they pulled together 4 skits to be performed to a theatre filled with proud parents and family members.

Submitted By Executive Administrator



Possum Juniors

From September through May *Possum Juniors* holds monthly workshops, which are held the third Monday of each month from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. These workshops include makeup, lighting, auditions, stage combat, just to name a few but focus on acting.

Students in grades 6 through 12 are welcome & encouraged to attend.

Auditions and rehearsals also occur for the Possum Juniors' annual summer production in July which for 2022 was *Seussical the Musical* a powerful story of friendship and curiosity.

Directed by Zachary Naar



A cast of 27 Actors
3 Performances ~ July 29, 30 & 31
Audience Attendance ~ 514

Submitted By Executive Administrator

Training / Outreach / Education

Dreamers United

With meetings & rehearsals every second Tuesday of the month Dreamers gathered to prepare for their participation in the JUNETEENTH celebration in Georgetown. They performed skits and concluded with the sounds of Motown & Soul.

The Group will be meeting in 2023 to prepare for a fundraiser in the Fall featuring a Night of Motown & Classic Soul.

Submitted By Executive Administrator

On The Edge

On The Edge for 2022 continuously met Thursdays. They tried on several accounts to produce a play for edgy audiences with no avail. They will begin February 2023 to meet at PPP Thursday nights (except the first Thursday of the month) reading non main stage plays.

We are always looking for new members and ideas please join us.

Submitted By Donna Flomp

Set Design & Construction

“Another Interesting Year at Possum Hall!”

It was very nice getting back to work in the shop and on the stage this past year. COVID did impact us throughout the theatre. On top of COVID and its impact, lumber prices shot through the roof. Additionally, lumber, materials and supplies were sometimes hard to come by even with the higher prices.

What wasn't in short supply were the number of volunteers. We had many new faces this past year and I'm very grateful and thankful. But, as in past years I would like to reach out and ask; if you know anyone that may be interested in meeting new people, making friends or would just like to get involved, please invite them to a Saturday morning build. Remember, experience is not necessary, just a desire to help. We will find a job that they can do!

Best Wishes to you all! And thank you again for your contributions...

Submitted By Fred Dean

Sound / Lighting / EFX

In addition to a full season indoors, following are a few behind the scenes highlights:

- Added rear house speakers
- Replaced older televisions for clearer on-stage picture backstage
- Added television for Orchestra in pit to see on stage
- Positioned on stage microphones to proper height and distance
- Currently in progress, upgrading lighting equipment to LED

Submitted By Chase Schirmer

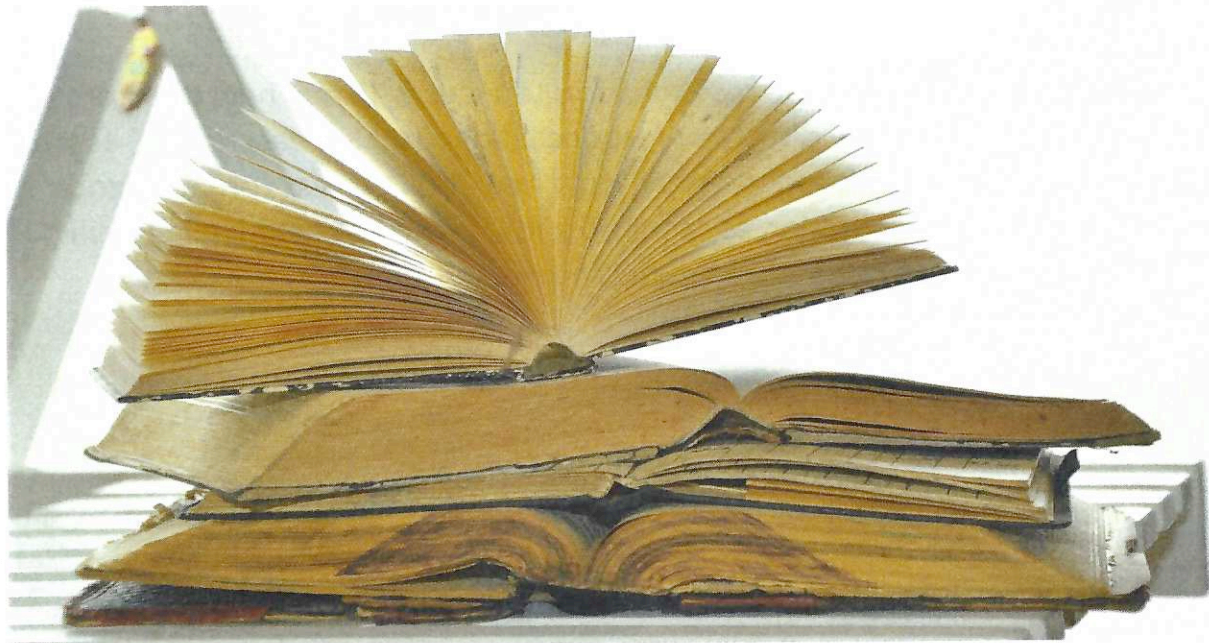
Reading Committee

The Reading Committee typically begins work in April of the year, making a list of shows to read for the season that is 2 years in advance (so our 2022 RC was reading for 2024). The process of choosing plays involves a protocol we use every year to whittle down the list to approximately 25 that we read: large musicals, small musicals, comedies, mysteries, dramas, and holiday shows. We followed this procedure in 2022 with 17 members of the Reading Committee.

However, the timing of choosing the 2024 season differed this year. Because we are in our 50th Anniversary year and many of our members were working on multiple projects involving additional shows (such as our Anniversary Gala), we were not able to meet in the Fall to choose the 2024 season. We are meeting on Thursday January 5th, and the season will be announced shortly thereafter. As always, we will be choosing a season of 5 main stage shows.

As Reading Committee Chair, I am also responsible for the library. We continue to clean out and organize as needed, and this year we also worked on some archival projects such as our scrapbook collection. This will be discussed more in detail in my 50th Anniversary Report.

Submitted By Nina Galerstein



Director Selection / Liaison

For 2022 and 2023 the role of Director Liaison is held by Les Ferguson, succeeding Donna DeKuyper. *Many thanks to Donna for her fine work in the position.*

The prime activity for the year was Director Selection for the 2023 50th Anniversary Mainstage season. A new Director Selection committee was formed comprised of Les Ferguson, Donna DeKuyper, John Hulse, Brian Flint, and Meg Kelly. All the members are experienced directors.

Interviews for potential directors were held at the end of September. We had a number of excellent candidates to choose from. We also employed many of the sample interview questions that were formulated in 2021 and 2022 by a separate committee.

The individuals chosen to direct in 2023 are as follows:

Wait Until Dark - Jordan Kilgore

Big River - John Hulse

Social Security - Pete Cuesta

Ragtime - Kenney Workman

The 2023 Christmas show had not yet been decided upon at the time of interviews. We will interview for that show when we do the 2024 show interviews this summer.

The Director Liaison also has the responsibility to meet with any new directors and do an orientation of the director's responsibilities and job description, as well as going over the Director Handbook. Our only new director was Jordan Kilgore. Jordan was given the orientation as required and I have been keeping in touch with him as he moves through his rehearsal process.

Submitted By Les Ferguson

Costuming

It has been a busy year leading up to our 50th Anniversary season. 5 main stage shows have been costumed from 1900 to the present day & a few decades in between. Each one with their own challenges.

Our biggest accomplishment has been the continued clean out & organization of the costume area. We started when the theater closed during Covid & have worked steadily to have the costume attic organized & labeled. This has been a massive undertaking with special thanks to Louise Hartzell & Rita Knight. Thanks also to Fiore Zinzi & Mary Jo Timmons.

Our goal for the coming year is to complete the reorganization of the construction room & revisit shows from our past.

Submitted By Marsha Shall

Publicity

The Publicity responsibilities continue to include issuing timely information utilizing a variety of media platforms. Releases and other forms of information listings are issued to members through emails, print and broadcast publications and to groups with publications which serve targeted audiences such as chambers of commerce and professional and volunteer organizations. Social media platforms are included and vary according to those that serve specific locations or interest groups.

All participants in productions, planning and general operational activities are encouraged to share information appropriately with their individual social media contacts.

Active in the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee and all associated activities, in 2022, outreach included discussion/proposed activities with broadcast media regarding history and upcoming activities.

Submitted By Rosanne Pack

Building & Grounds

COMMITTEE – Jim Hartzell, Chair; Rob Baker, Henley Graves, Tommy Ray Chedester

Significant Accomplishments:

Purchased and installed 3 complete HVAC units at a cost of just under \$52,000.

Replaced large area of costume storage area floor

Razed old storage shed and dock at back of building in prep for new storage addition

Combined Stabilization grant funds and PPP funds of \$25,000. We: Purchased and installed Grand curtain; replaced lighting in theater and shop, painted walls and platforms in theater; will be installing carpet in theater and offices.

Signed first maintenance contract for HVAC units which are 24, 24, 17, 16 and 9 years old.

Repaired/replaced water heater, ice machine, several HVAC components, emergency light batteries, light bulbs, furnace filters, etc.

Mounted 50 years' worth of program plaques and pewter stars on Green Room walls.

Still to be done

1. Monitor construction of new storage addition
2. Install carpet in the office and theater.
3. Restripe parking lot
4. Miscellaneous maintenance projects:
 - Seal bottom of kitchen exit door; Hang round PPP signed used for outdoor shows during 2021; paint ends of bar cabinets; finish hanging plaques and stars; repair/replace men's bath urinal, kitchen sink and lady's downstairs bathroom sink.

Submitted By Jim Hartzell

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our supporters have been good to us again this year and as you can see from the Annual Report Possum Point Players is in relatively good financial condition. We have had some very successful shows this year which has helped to keep our finances stable.

As a kickoff to our 50th anniversary year, the Gala brought in \$16,000 and we anticipate our 50th season to be successful as well.

We have accumulated \$130,000 toward the shop addition to our building. Work is expected to begin sometime in the beginning of 2023. We have presently paid off our old mortgage but have secured a loan to cover any additional construction costs for this building.

We have, however, had some very heavy expenses in recent months. We found that 3 of our 7 heating/air conditioning units had to be replaced at the cost of \$52,000. These units were very old, and it is understandable that they needed to be replaced. We only hope that the others, though they are older, hold up a few more years.

The inside of the theatre and the risers have been painted (\$6,100), we have added a new curtain on the stage (\$13,600) and carpeting is to be installed around the seating area and in the offices (\$7,000). We have also had some electrical work done and have replaced the overhead lights in the theatre and the shop area (\$2,500). New computers in the offices have also been purchased (\$2,500).

We are continuing to improve our facilities and hope that you all will help us keep them in good shape. Please remember to turn off all lights when leaving the building, lock all doors and clean up any trash. Your help is necessary to keep Possum Points Players the beautiful facility that it is today.

Submitted By Louise Hartzell

Possum Point Players Annual Report 2022

Executive Committee

President – Kenney Workman
Vice President – Steven Dow
Secretary – Anthony Policastro
Treasurer – Louise Hartzell
Building & Grounds – Jim Hartzell
Fundraising Chair – Claudius Bowden
Member-At-Large – Cheryl Graves & Beth Howlett
Artistic Committee Representatives – Nina Galerstein & Rosanne Pack

Artistic Committee

Chair & Costumes – Marsha Shull
Secretary – Scott Beadle
Director Selection – Less Ferguson
Dreamers United – Steven Wimbs
Lighting/Sound/EFX – Chase Schirmer
Makeup – Maddi Cuesta
On The Edge – Donna Flomp
PJ's Advisor – Lorraine Steinhoff Leavel
PJ's President – Olivia Farro
Props & Props Assistant – Vacant
PPP Radio Theatre – Bernie Noeller
PP Shakespeare Players – Richard Huffman
Publicity – Rosanne Pack
Reading Committee – Nina Galerstein
Set Construction – Fred Dean

Office Staff

Executive Administrator – Anne Baker
Administrative Assistant – Michael Short

The dedication and commitment of our Trustees continued to play a crucial role in the success of Possum Point Players. Our Executive and Artistic Committee members are an exceptional group, and I am proud to have served among them. To any of them whose term of service is concluding, THANK YOU!!

In closing, I offer my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you, our faithful volunteers, and supporters. Thanks to you, the Possum Point Players Community Theatre continues to offer outstanding educational and entertainment experiences. Now, as we welcome 2023 and face the challenges that a new year presents, please join us as we celebrate 50 years of bringing live theatre to young and old alike.

Sincerely,

Kenney Workman

President

Possum Point Players Board of Trustees

