

MAY 2013

STAGE • WRITE

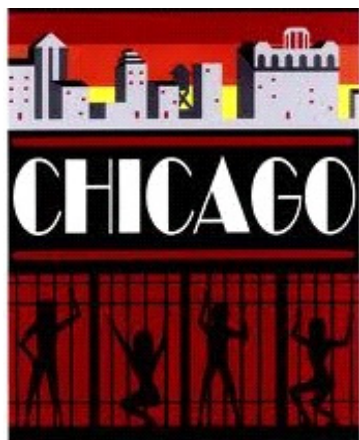
The
Williamsburg
Players

Community theatre
at its best

CHICAGO

Book by Fred Ebb & Bob Fosse, Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Based on the play *Chicago* by Maurine Dallas Watkins

JUNE 6 - JUNE 22, 2013



*It's just a noisy hall
where there's a nightly
brawl, and All That Jazz!*

The musical *Chicago* is based on a play of the same name by reporter Maurine Dallas Watkins, who was assigned to cover the 1924 trials of murderesses Beulah Annan and Belva Gaertner for the Chicago Tribune.

Beulah Annan, the model for the character of Roxie Hart, was 23 when she was accused of the April 3, 1924 murder of Harry Kalstedt. The Tribune reported that Beulah Annan played the foxtrot record *Hula Lou* over and over for two hours before calling her husband to say she killed a man who "tried to make love to her". She was found "not guilty" on May 25, 1924. Velma is based on Belva Gaertner, who was a cabaret singer. The body of Walter Law was discovered slumped over the steering wheel of Gaertner's abandoned car on March 12, 1924. Two police officers testified that they had seen a woman getting into the car and shortly thereafter heard gunshots. A bottle of gin and an automatic pistol were found on the floor of the car. Gaertner was acquitted on June 6, 1924. Lawyers William Scott Stewart and W. W. O'Brien were models for a composite character of Billy Flynn.

Watkins' sensational columns documenting these trials proved so popular that she decided to write a play based on them. The show received both popular and critical acclaim and made it to Broadway in 1926, running for 172 performances. Cecil B. DeMille produced a silent film version, *Chicago* (1927), and was later remade as *Roxie Hart* (1942).

The underlying theme of the show is a satire on corruption in the administration of criminal justice and the concept of the celebrity criminal. In roaring twenties Chicago, chorine Roxie Hart murders a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband Amos to take the rap, until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another merry murderess, Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the American dream: fame, fortune and acquittal.

Our production brings a host of newcomers to the Williamsburg Players' stage: Michaela Shutts (*Velma*), Morgan Sharrett (*Roxie*), Robert Weathers (*Billy Flynn*), Charity Robinson (*Mama Morton*), and ensemble members Jacquelyne Anderson, Nancy Collie, Carrie Letourneau, Adam Lemos, Ravenn McDowell, Eric Robinson, Rico Robinson, Katherine Ruble and Savannah Williams, along with returning WP veterans Janesse Chapman, Megan Gerth, Maurice Martinez, Rachel Marrs, Ingrid Holzer-Miller, Steve Pasco and Darrell Wood.

The production team consists of Peter Natale (*Director*), Dana Margulies Cauthen (*Choreographer*), Amy Insley (*Lighting*), Emily Silfies (*Costumes*), Catrina Berry (*Production Assistant*), Steve Olson (*Set Design*), Robert Kyle (*Hair & Makeup*) and Mike McCoy (*Musical Director*).

Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 pm with Saturday matinees at 2:00 pm. Tickets, \$18.00, can be purchased on our website, www.williamsburgplayers.org, where you can choose your exact seat, pay by credit card and print your tickets at home, thus bypassing the box office when you arrive at the theater. Tickets can also be purchased by calling the box office at (757) 229-0431 and leaving your name and phone number. A box office volunteer will return your call. Same day student tickets are available for \$10.00 at the door.

Children's Theatre

Ages Grades K - 5

THE REALLY BIG DINOSAUR SHOW

presented by Rainbow Puppet Productions

All Seats \$7.00

Saturday June 8
11:00 am

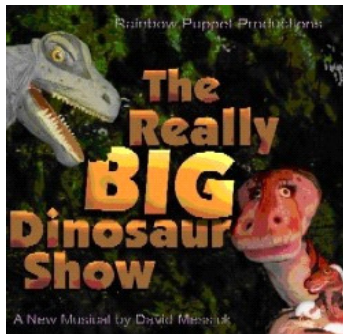
Through original songs and the use of over twenty giant puppets, the time of the dinosaurs appears on stage.

The program features an eight foot tall T-Rex and another dinosaur that's over 16 feet long. (It's not called "The Really Big Dinosaur Show" for nothing!)

Original music and script by David Messick. Giant puppets by Frank Lakus of Tampa, Florida, and Virginia artists Laura Huff, Helen Spaetzle, Christine Frank, and Kathie Davis.

The show lasts approximately 1 hour and is geared toward grades K-5th, but parents and grandparents will enjoy it equally as well.

Tickets for *The Really BIG Dinosaur Show* can be purchased online at www.williamsburgplayers.org or by calling the box office (757) 229-0431.



If you have a comment, a suggestion or an idea that you would like to share with us, you can contact us via regular mail at P.O. Box 91 Williamsburg, Virginia, 23187, email at webmaster@williamsburgplayers.org or leave a message at (757) 229-1679.

Please do not leave feedback on the ticket reservation line.

Thank you!

Adopt a Chair

As you sit in the new auditorium, look down at the arms of your seat. If there's a nameplate there, then the purchase of that chair was made by one of our generous donors. If there's no nameplate, that chair still needs someone to adopt it. Please think about purchasing a chair and nameplate with a \$300 donation.



Every chair deserves an owner.

OUR SET STRIKE VOLUNTEERS

On Sunday, April 21st, *STEEL MAGNOLIAS* was put to bed, making way for our next show, *CHICAGO*.



The following people were instrumental in helping strike and clean the theater: Marsha Allen, Bob Campbell, David Cunningham, Tony Gabriele, Justin Giroux, Peter Natale, Bob Noonan, Debbie Noonan, Steve Olson, Steve Pasco, Jack Schaeffer, Bob Shea and Adam Stillwell

Annie

July 19 - July 28

Friday & Saturday 7:30 pm

Sunday 2:30 pm

TICKETS NOW ON SALE
Adults \$20 Students \$10

Purchase tickets online at
www.williamsburgplayers.org or
call the Box Office at (757) 229-0431

AUDITIONS

Would you or someone you know like to audition for one of our productions? As a first time performer or a seasoned actor, all levels of talent are welcome.



Cast: 10 girls 6 to 12 yrs old, 4 boys 10 to 12 yrs old
10 Men & 10 Women (teenage and up)
One Dog

Children and Dog Auditions will be held for the musical *Annie* on Sunday, May 19th from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Casting of the orphans will include 10 young girls, aged 6 to 12 and a dog, (preferably female). We are also looking for 4 young boys for chorus and street scenes. Children may sing a capella if necessary, however, a prepared song with sheet music or a CD is preferred. Children may use a CD that has words. The dog must be people friendly, obedient, house trained and able to follow direction.

Adults will audition on Sunday & Monday, June 9th & 10th at 7:00 pm each evening. Adult casting will include 10 Male and 10 Female actors. All roles are open.

To audition, prepare a song of no more than two minutes. Please supply sheet music or karaoke style CD (no words). Dress comfortably for the dance/movement portion of the audition.

The show will run the last two weekends of July. Show dates are July 19th thru July 28th on Friday & Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:30 pm for a total of six performances.

For questions or additional information, please contact the director, Peter Natale, at peco@cox.net.

For more information visit www.williamsburgplayers.org

Williamsburg Players Annual Meeting
will be held at the theater on Sunday, August 4th
Social hour & light hors d'oeuvres at 1:00 p.m.
Meeting at 2:00 pm

To be eligible to vote on proposals and new board members you must be as season ticket holder or have volunteered during the 2012-2013 season

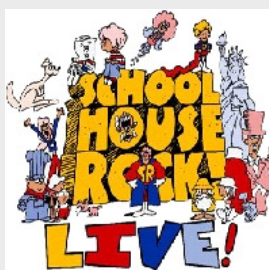
OUR 2013 - 2014 SEASON



Sept. 12 - Sept. 28, 2013

Written by Ken Ludwig

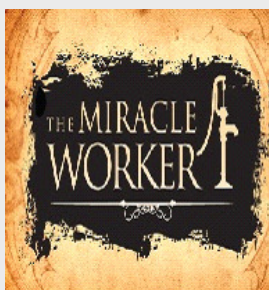
Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



Nov. 7 - Nov. 23, 2013

Book: Scott Ferguson, Kyle Hall & George Keating. Music & Lyrics: Lynn Ahrens, Bob Dorough, Dave Frishberg, Kathy Mandry, George Newall & Tom Yohe. Based on an idea by David McCall and the TV series created by George Newall & Tom Yohe

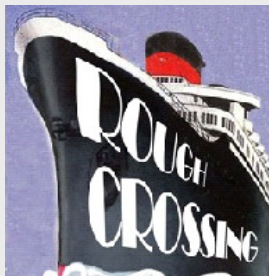
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Jan. 16 - Feb. 1, 2014

Written by William Gibson

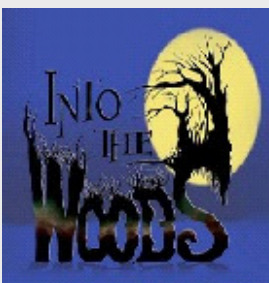
Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



Mar. 27 - Apr. 12, 2014

Written by Tom Stoppard

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



June 5 - June 21, 2014

*Book by James Lapine
Music and Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim*

Presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International

THE SEASON SUBSCRIPTION FORM
WAS MAILED AT THE BEGINNING OF MAY.
REMEMBER, TICKETS ARE FULLY EXCHANGEABLE
FOR A DIFFERENT PERFORMANCE DATE FOR THE
SAME PRODUCTION. NO QUESTIONS ASKED!



President's Message from D. Hugh Siggins

As we approach the end of our 2012-2013 season, we are getting ready to present our final musical production of the year *Chicago*. As many of you know, this is a depiction of the Chicago of gangsters, molls and prohibition, but our city is a little different. We have murderesses, jail matrons, lawyers and dancing guys and gals. We hope you have your tickets for this show but if not, go to our website, www.WilliamsburgPlayers.org. There are seats available for every performance. But as with most musicals, those seats won't last for long.

When you are at the theater, you can also buy tickets for our summer production of our family friendly special performance of *Annie*. Tickets for this fund-raising event are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children and students. This special fund-raiser is not associated with the season subscriptions so separate tickets are required. There will be six performances between July 19 and July 28. More details can be found on our website and ticketing page. We hope you will bring your friends and family to see *Annie*.

Our season subscription forms for 2013-2014 have been mailed to those on our mailing lists. If you have not yet received yours, call the box office at (757) 229-0431. The season price is \$15.00 per ticket per show, which is a savings of \$3.00 per performance and you get your reserved seat for all shows.

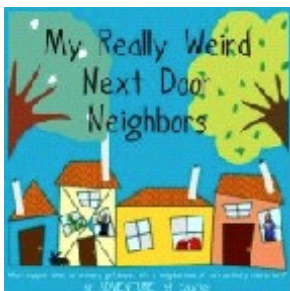
For those of you who are members of Christopher Wren Association for Higher Learning, we are in conversations to do some classes utilizing our theater for the coming year. Watch for information in your Christopher Wren catalog.

Thank you to all who attended the shows of our 2012-2013 season. We hope when you renew your subscriptions this year that you also make plans to attend our special performances during the coming year.

Children's Theatre

Ages Grades K - 5

OUR 2013-2014 CHILDREN'S THEATRE SEASON



MY REALLY WEIRD NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS

SEPT. 14, 2013



NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

NOV. 23, 2013



AESOP'S FABLES

FEB. 1, 2014



ONCE UPON A TIME

APRIL 5, 2014



THE ADVENTURES OF CHESSIE THE MANATEE

JUNE 14, 2014

ALL SHOWS ARE SATURDAY MORNINGS AT 11:00 AM TICKETS: \$7.00