

Stage Write

The Williamsburg Players

59 Years of Community Theatre at its best!

October 2015

This season is dedicated in memory of Mollie Robbins.

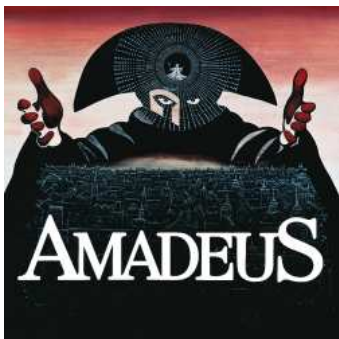
Amadeus

November 5 - 21, 2015

Written by Peter Shaffer

Directed by Catherine Hagner

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



It's a dilemma we've all faced, whether it be in the workplace, the classroom, the athletic field, the performance hall, or just the competition for attention and praise from others: how do we cope with the unfairness so basic to existence, when no matter how hard we work at something we care about, we can't catch up to the natural beauty, ability, or talent given to another who doesn't even have to try to be better? By fortune alone, someone who gives little effort, who gives much offense, who even squanders gifts thoughtlessly may still reach levels we never will.

That's the cruel truth at the heart of playwright Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus* brought to you at the Williamsburg Players by our newest director, Catherine Hagner. The place is Vienna, at the end of the 18th century, and through much training, effort, and (he thought until now) talent, Antonio Salieri (Jim Dwyer) has lifted himself from a provincial birth to the highest levels of the court of Emperor Joseph II (Terry Nienhuis). In a city of musicians, he is the young star rising quickly through the hierarchy of court musicians. Until now, his rivals have been men like Count von Strack (Kenny Moskalski), Count Orsini-Rosenberg (Brink Miller), and Baron van Swieten (Bernard Florey), men he understands because they are much like himself.

Salieri's ordered world is changed with the arrival of a child prodigy now entering manhood and looking to stay in Vienna. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Trey Heath), as Shaffer writes him, is a musical genius beyond all

others, so advanced that his full gift cannot yet be fully appreciated by most, but Salieri sees him for what he is, a composer who with little effort creates music that is the voice of the heavens, that puts his most inspired attempts to shame. Worse, Mozart is an enfant terrible, a silly boy of a man who is dominated by his father and who seems to be as happy making crude jokes as he is making music. In Salieri's jealous eyes, Mozart's immaturity is inflated to an obscenity, a creature given everything by a God indifferent to a dedicated servant. And so a horrible envy grows, as Salieri, with the help of others lowered by Mozart's rise, begins a campaign of vengeance that he imagines he will bring all the way to the creator who has slighted him.

This play is the story of how far a good man can be warped by vengeance, at how jealousy can turn the world against a great talent. Salieri, with the help of his "venticelli," (Jordan Wentland and Michael Moskalski) gossip-mongers who he uses expertly to malign Mozart's every move, begins a game to destroy his rival, even at the cost of innocents like Constanze (Hannah Pecoraro), the young woman who begins as Mozart's playmate, but grows to be his loyal, but endangered, wife.

Sit back and enjoy the manipulations of rivals, the historical costumes, the surprising humor, and the courtly pageant of *Amadeus*. The skills of our talented cast (including Mike Romero, Jessica Webster, Joyce D'Arcy, and Stephen Fleeson) are on display. Open your ears and let the beautiful music wash over you. But don't leave without thinking a little about one question, would you have acted differently than Salieri?

Neil Hollands
Production Manager

THE WILLIAMSBURG PLAYERS
REMEMBER & HONOR
MOLLIE ROBBINS



Mollie Robbins was one of the Williamsburg Players' favorite performers for many years. The Players was a fairly new group, just a few years into organizing itself, when Mollie and her husband Leo arrived in Williamsburg in the early 1960s. Shortly thereafter the Players and Mollie found each other and a happy future was assured for both.

Mollie had taken up theatre arts as a hobby while in high school in England. She found she enjoyed it and continued on to repertory and little theatre work afterwards. When she arrived in Williamsburg as a new bride she was more than pleased to find a community theater close to her new home. The Players were equally pleased to find a trained "thespian" ready to join their troupe.

Patrons of the Players loved Mollie for her excellent acting skills and especially her accent. Mollie played aristocratic ladies and quirky scullery maids with equal enthusiasm; perhaps with a different accent, but always genuine London British. When she was not on stage, or working backstage, Mollie loved to meet ticket holders in the lobby and talk about the show or future productions. Her "day job" was for many years as a "Hostess" (now, costumed interpreter) for Colonial Williamsburg where she was widely known and admired.

Mollie never got to play the "new theater" but she did enjoy seeing several shows in its "hugeness" as she called it. A survivor of the WPs' "gypsy" years when shows were played in borrowed ballrooms, auto showrooms, and school auditoriums, Mollie nested into the (former) theater on Hubbard Lane and loved her years there. We remember her with respect and love. Her spirit is ever with us.



Comments

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
send an email to: webmaster@williamsburgplayers.org
or leave a message at (757) 229-1679.

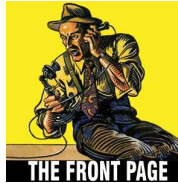
Please do not leave feedback on the ticket reservation line.
Thank you!

Williamsburg Players
2015-16 Season



Romantic Comedy - Jan. 21 - Feb. 6, 2016

Directed by Julie King
Written by Bernard Slade
Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



The Front Page - Mar. 10 - 26, 2016

Directed by Sam Miller
Written by Ben Hecht & Charles MacArthur
Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



Rent - Jun. 2 - 18, 2016

Directed by Dana Margulies Cauthen
Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson
Presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International



Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm with Saturday matinees at 2:00 pm. Tickets, \$20.00 for adults, and \$12.00 for children and students, can be purchased online at www.williamsburgplayers.org or by calling the box office at (757) 229-0431 and leaving your name and phone number. A box office volunteer will return your call as soon as possible.

Children's Theatre

Ages pre-K to 5th

Children's Shows
Saturdays at 11:00 am
Tickets \$7.00



Christmas
with Santa
Dec. 5, 2015



Follow Me
story of the
Tuskegee Airmen
Feb. 6, 2016



Storybook
Tales
Jun. 4, 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I mentioned in the last edition of Stage Write two months ago, this is my first year as your President. While I have your focus and attention, I would like to take a moment of your time to introduce myself.

Born and raised in Northern Virginia, except for brief stint in Oklahoma (where I played with tarantulas . . . but that's another story), I moved to

the Williamsburg area in the early 90s where I remained until I met Christina. We were married in 1997, moved to Cooperstown, New York for about a year and a half where we both worked for the New York State Historical Museum and the Farmers' Museum. Returning to the area in 2001, we have been here ever since.

Christina and I have two children, Cate (12) and Zack (11). In 2003, I joined the ranks alongside the greatest shipbuilders in the world; working at Newport News Shipbuilding where I am a Production Manager in the Aircraft Carrier Overhaul program. I am currently supporting the overhaul of the USS Abraham Lincoln.

While I have been a fan of theatre for many years it wasn't until I was asked to design and build the set for a show my

friend was directing that I took an active role; no longer as just an observer but rather a fully immersed participant. Since then, I've been hooked and help out in any way I can - backstage of course because you would pay money to not have me sing. I leave the stage presence to my wife.

Now that you know a little about me, I hope you will stop me when you see me in and around the theatre and tell me a little bit about yourself. I look forward to learning about you!

So that brings me to you. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be in a show? Work backstage? Operate a light board or a spotlight? Perhaps swing a hammer or dip a brush into a gallon of paint to bring the stage to life and create an environment where the outside world fades and a new world emerges; not better, not worse but different. Losing oneself within a play or a musical is one of life's treasures. Each of us react differently to the experience but the common bond that exists between us is the experience itself - how each of us are moved - that is what I love about theatre - experiencing an event and then sharing our thoughts, our feelings, our emotions - that is the glue that binds us and keeps us coming back for more. If you are ready, volunteer and become an active participant, you might just find yourself hooked like I was!

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours in theatre, Michael Westenberger
President, The Williamsburg Players



**BECOME A BOX OFFICE STAFF PERSON
AND GET TO SEE THE SHOWS FOR FREE!**

We will train you to sell tickets from home and work the Box Office at the theater.

In return, you can receive COMP tickets to the great season of shows coming to our theater.

Interested?

Call Debbie Noonan at 220-3208 or click the volunteer tab on our website www.williamsburgplayers.org

[williamsburgplayers.org](http://www.williamsburgplayers.org)

and fill out the volunteer form indicating a desire to work in the box office. Just say **COUNT ME IN!**



Romantic Comedy

Directed by Julie King

Written by Bernard Slade

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Sun & Mon, Nov 8-9, 7-9 PM

**A Williamsburg Players Christmas
Holiday Favorites from Stage & Screen**

Friday, December 4, 2015 8:00 PM
Saturday, December 5, 2015 3:00 & 8:00 PM

Join our company of local talent as they perform your favorite holiday songs from Broadway and film. They will sing, dance and play during this musical revue that will be sure to get you in the holiday spirit!

Adult Ticket: \$15.00; Military, Student and/or Children: \$10.00

Call our Box Office to reserve your seats at 757.229.0431
or visit our website: www.williamsburgplayers.org
(Show is not included in our season ticket.)

Thank You!

to Sally Holzbach for her continued support for The Williamsburg Players with her generosity and photography skills as well.

***Williamsburg Players
Board of Directors and Staff***

President..... Michael Westenberger
Vice President Phil Cabibi
Treasurer Neil Hollands
Secretary Kathleen Walden
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Technical Director..... Scott Hayes
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Facilities Maintenance Steve Olson
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Attorney Robert Bland
Graphic Designer Lori Okay
Scholarships Betsy Jo Spence
Premiere Night..... Jim & Les Waldron
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Volunteers..... Carol Moff
Box Office/Season Subscriptons..... Debbie Noonan

DONATION FORM

Please accept my gift of _____

Donation Type:

<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Buy a Chair - \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Buy a Light - \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> Sound Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Purpose
<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting Equipment	

Designate your dedication
(i.e. In Honor of... In Memory of...)

Donation given by: _____

Williamsburg Players, PO Box 91, Williamsburg, VA 23187
www.williamsburgplayers.org (757) 229-0431



The Williamsburg Players

Presents:

One of many new perks in store for our season ticket holders!

“Dinner and a Show!”

“Dinner and a Show!” is an exciting new program being offered as an exclusive benefit to our season ticket holders only.

In cooperation with a growing list of Williamsburg area dining establishments, the “Dinner and a Show!” program offers a discount off a pre-show dinner or lunch at one of the listed participating restaurants.

The discount applies only on the date of your performance at the Williamsburg Players. You must present your theater ticket with the Dinner and a Show! coupon for the designated show. The discount will apply only once during a show.

List of participating restaurants:



Receive 10% off total bill

COCHON on 2nd

311-106 Second Street • Williamsburg, VA 23185

Reservations recommended: 757.229.1199

<http://www.cochonon2nd.com>



Receive 10% off total bill

Corner Café

5203 Center Street • Williamsburg, VA 23188

Phone: 757-345-3144

<http://www.cornercafewilliamsburg.com>



Receive 10% off total bill

Antonio's Ristorante Italiano

801 Merrimac Trail, Suite E • Williamsburg, VA 23185

Phone: 757-258-5300

<http://www.eatatantonios.net/home>