

Stage Write



The Williamsburg Players

59 Years of Community Theatre at its best!

January 2016

This season is dedicated in memory of Mollie Robbins.

Romantic Comedy

January 21 - February 6, 2016

Written by Bernard Slade

Directed by Julie King

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



Step into the world of successful playwright Jason Carmichael—after more than ten years of co-authoring hit Broadway romantic comedies, he lives in an upscale apartment, drives a Porsche, attends the best parties, and loves being a celebrity. Once he marries high-society

Allison St James, his life will be perfect.

But as *Romantic Comedy* unfolds, Jason's perfect facade crumbles in a series of miscommunications, bad timings, and poor choices. It all begins on his wedding day when he meets young Phoebe Craddock, a mousy New England school teacher with a passion for playwriting. It is obvious their connection is genuine, no matter how mismatched they may seem; yet, Jason marries Allison and begins a writing partnership with Phoebe on that very same day.

The formulaic plot of "boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy finds girl again" plays out in unexpected twists and

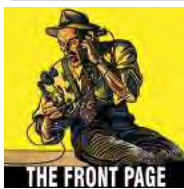
turns in the lives of Jason and Phoebe. Will they ever get to the "happily ever after" ending we expect of romantic comedies?

The actors include some familiar faces and some newcomers to Williamsburg Players. Recently on the boards in *Amadeus*, Mike Romero portrays Jason Carmichael. Appearing as Phoebe Craddock is Holly Cunningham. Kathleen Levendusky plays Allison St. James. Veteran actor Sharon Hollands is Blanche Dailey, Jason's blunt but caring agent. The down-to-earth journalist Leo Janowitz is played by Timothy Meyer, Jr. Also recently appearing in *Amadeus*, Jessica Webster is ambitious actress Kate Mallory, who usually gets what she wants when she wants it.

Join us for *Romantic Comedy*, where we can laugh at the expected and the unexpected aspects of love.

Tickets can be purchased on our website www.WilliamsburgPlayers.org or by calling (757) 229-0431. Adult tickets are \$20, students \$12.

Williamsburg Players 2015-16 Season



The Front Page - Mar. 10 - 26, 2016

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



Rent - Jun. 2 - 18, 2016

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

Children's Theatre

Grades pre-K to 5th

Children's Shows Saturdays at 11:00 am

Tickets \$7.00



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



Storybook
Tales
Jun. 4, 2016

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.

We're making a lot of improvements at the Playhouse.
Come see our new art wall in the lobby.



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!



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.



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

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) 229-1679

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello again. I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and warm. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to read our theatre newsletter and thank you for your support - without which we would not be able to bring a theatre experience to your doorstep - right here in Williamsburg.

Since the last newsletter, we presented your *Amadeus* and in December presented a holiday performance, filled with music and dancing. We hope you had an opportunity to see both. They were both unique theatre experiences and we thank all those involved in the performances and those in the audiences.

We are gearing up to bring you our third show of the season, *Romantic Comedy*, and we are getting ready to hold auditions for the fourth show in the line-up, *The Front Page*. There is never a dull moment here at the theatre. Auditions for *The Front Page* will be held January 24th and 25th. Ever wanted to try your hand at acting? Now is your chance!

Just over the horizon on February 6th, is the next Children's show, *Follow Me*. You, your kids, and even your grandkids

will want to hear the adventures of the *Tuskegee Airmen*. This show, presented by Rainbow Puppet Productions, is sure to be a hit with young and old.

If you visited the theatre in the last month you would have noticed our "Art in the Lobby" exhibit. This exciting new addition is a rotating gallery of artwork by local artists. Each main season show will have a different collection of art for your viewing pleasure. This experience is brought to you through a grant provided by the York County Arts Commission. Look for more information in the near future (for an artist meet and greet) and I hope you will embrace this new opportunity for using the theatre as an outlet for additional art experiences.

For those who have not purchased your season ticket, it is never too late to guarantee a seat to the fantastic line-up of shows we have in store for you for the remainder of the season; *Romantic Comedy*, *The Front Page*, and wrapping up the season with the musical *Rent*. A subscription can be purchased at the discounted rate of \$45. Please visit our website, www.WilliamsburgPlayers.org where you can purchase the season subscription or you can call our box office for assistance, (757) 229-0431.

As mentioned before, I welcome all of your comments and suggestions to ensure our theatre remains at the forefront of community arts on the Peninsula. Please feel free to send me an email; wstnbrgr@cox.net, call me at (757) 291-7489, or chat with me at the theatre.

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

Yours in theatre, Michael Westenberger
President, The Williamsburg Players

Williamsburg Players Board of Directors and Staff

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ONLINE SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Williamsburg Players will introduce online season ticketing starting with the 2016-2017 Season. Subscribers will have a choice of mailing in their subscriptions as has been done in the past (phase 1), calling the box office or ordering their entire Season Subscription online (phase 2). The schedule for ordering season subscriptions will be announced in a future StageWrite article. Currently, patrons can order a 3-Show Season Subscription through the run of *Romantic Comedy*.



The Front Page

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

**Auditions: Sun & Mon,
Jan 24-25, 7-9 PM**

Special Event for the Williamsburg Players

A Broadway Romance

An intimate cabaret with Jennifer Lent

February 13, 2016

2 pm and 8 pm

One Day Only

The Williamsburg Players is the entertainment destination for your Valentine's plans. You're invited to get up close as our stage becomes a nightclub lounge. So take a seat for this show featuring multi-talented performer Jennifer Lent, as she weaves songs and stories together with live piano accompaniment. With songs *Out of My Dreams*, *Stormy Weather*, *Maybe*, *Can't Help Falling in Love*, and music from musicals *Sweet Charity*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *West Side Story*, you will not want to miss this cabaret experience. This is not part of the regular show season and all ticket sales help support fundraising for the Williamsburg Players.

Tickets: \$20

Stage seating: limited number for \$30

Be a part of the cabaret experience and sit on stage with the artists

More about Jennifer Lent: Jennifer holds a BA in Theater from The College of William & Mary and an MFA in Dance Performance & Choreography from Florida State University. She is a professor of Dance & Musical Theater at Christopher Newport University and at Thomas Nelson Community College. This November Jennifer performed two nights in *The Cranky Cabaret* in New York City, then went on to perform in *The Impossible Dream* and *HoliDivas Cabaret* at the new Zeiders American Dream Theater in Virginia Beach. This summer Jennifer performed at The St. Louis Cabaret Singer's Conference where she trained daily with pros such as cabaret legend Marilyn Maye, who performed on The Tonight Show 96 times; Peisha McPhee, who is a vocal coach on American Idol and whose daughter is singer/actress Katherine McPhee; and Faith Prince, Broadway Star and TV actress, who starred as Adelaide opposite Nathan Lane and is currently rehearsing for the new Broadway show, *Disaster!*

At The Williamsburg Players Jennifer recently played the roles of Oolie/Donna in *City of Angels* and Miss Adelaide in *Guys & Dolls*. She played Libby in Neil Simon's *I Ought To Be in Pictures* and Tess in *The Sisters Rosensweig* by Wendy Wasserstein. She has also performed with Virginia Musical Theater at The Sandler Center in Virginia Beach. Her most memorable role was Ms. Mazeppa in *Gypsy*.



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>