

MARCH 2014

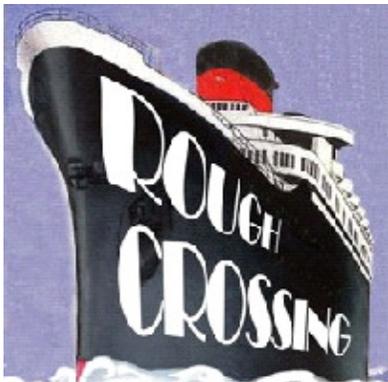
STAGE•WRITE

**The
Williamsburg
Players**
Community theatre
at its best

ROUGH CROSSING

MAR. 27 - APR. 12, 2014

Written by Tom Stoppard



Inspiration is found in the strangest of circumstances and the story behind the story is sometimes the more interesting.

With all that to say, Tom Stoppard's *Rough Crossing* is that ridiculous creation of story and backstory that can only occur when you put two writers, a composer, some actors and an eccentric steward on a trans-Atlantic cruise and the charade becomes a necessity. Stoppard's 1984 comedic creation is a delight for audiences and provides a hilarious look into the creative process as well as the comedy that accompanies the complexity of humanity and theatre types. With witty banter, quirky characters, and plenty of cognac, Stoppard delivers a fast paced situation that many of us will never be in, but it is a lot of fun to take the cruise with those who are amidst the dilemma that is produced in this comedy.

It is funny. It is fun. Fun for an ensemble to act and react in. Fun for the audience to see how much fun these characters are to get to know.

This is a treat for this director as well. From the

first reading of this play, my imagination created the look of this play and I wanted to celebrate the heyday of cruises by pulling inspiration from the 1930's. The sharp lines of clothes against the curvy furniture creates the illusion that these characters are larger than life. I want the audience to be transported to the romanticism of the vast Atlantic Ocean. I want a hint of familiarity but a mystery.

A huge undertaking I know for community theatre. Since I am new to the Williamsburg Players, I am bringing some new faces to this production. Not only are many of the cast members new to the Players, but some new names fill in the technical side of this production. Names that may be new now, but hopefully will be recognized in future productions in this community.

Come take a voyage on the steamship Italian Castle in *Rough Crossing* by Tom Stoppard.

Alex Morse, Director

TICKET & SHOW INFORMATION

Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm with Saturday matinees at 2:00 pm. Tickets, \$18.00 for adults and \$10.00 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 Grades pre K - 5

ONCE UPON A TIME

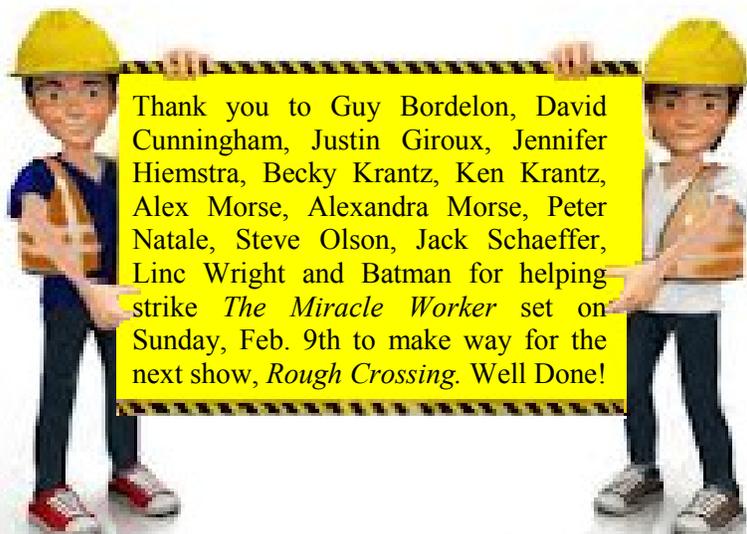
presented by Bright Star Touring Theatre

Saturday
April 5th
11:00 am
All Seats
\$7.00



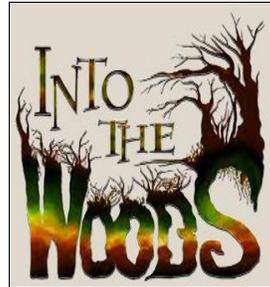
Literature comes to life in this hysterical production bringing to the stage the stories of Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk! Lenny and Mable are determined to reenact these two classic fairy tales, undertaking more than a dozen roles each. From the character formerly known as Prince Charming, to a giant lumbering high above our set, this production will bring smiles and laughter to children and adults alike. The show lasts approximately one hour and is geared toward grades Pre-K through 5th, but parents and grandparents will enjoy it equally as well.

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



Thank you to Guy Bordelon, David Cunningham, Justin Giroux, Jennifer Hiemstra, Becky Krantz, Ken Krantz, Alex Morse, Alexandra Morse, Peter Natale, Steve Olson, Jack Schaeffer, Linc Wright and Batman for helping strike *The Miracle Worker* set on Sunday, Feb. 9th to make way for the next show, *Rough Crossing*. Well Done!

~ STILL TO COME ~



June 5 - June 21, 2014

Book by James Lapine
Music and Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim

Presented by special
arrangement with Music

Children's Theatre

Ages Grades Pre K - 5



CHESSIE THE
MANATEE

JUNE 14, 2014

11:00 am

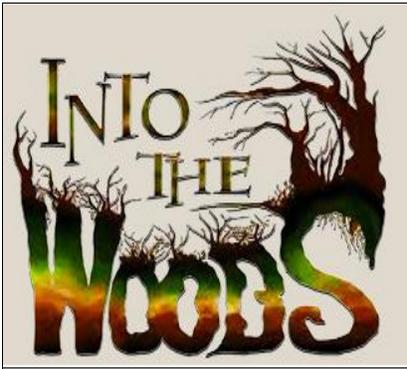
ALL SEATS
\$7.00

**HEARING ASSISTED
T-LOOP SYSTEM NOW
AVAILABLE IN THE THEATER**



Today's highly-sophisticated hearing aids are typically automated to increase or decrease volume or to reconfigure to new settings based on the hearing aids' "reading" of the current listening environment. A T-loop is a specialized circuit that is placed within hearing aids and is designed to pick up an electronic signal versus an acoustic sound. The technology delivers sound signals directly to hearing aids, creating a personal listening system and improved hearing. Ask your audiologist about this feature for your hearing device. We would like to thank Dr. Hecker and Associates and other patrons for their donations that helped make this T-Loop system possible.

AUDITIONS



**Auditions will be held drop-in style
Sunday, March 2nd 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm**

Callbacks

**Tuesday, March 4th 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Wednesday, March 5th 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

There are roles for 10 women and 7 men.
Characters range in age from 16 to 70+

Auditions and callbacks will be held at
The James-York Playhouse, home of
The Williamsburg Players, 200 Hubbard Lane.

Please prepare 32 bars in the style of
the show, Sondheim is encouraged, and
provide sheet music in appropriate key, an
accompanist will be provided. No a cappella
and no track / Karaoke style CD's.

You are encouraged to sing a song
from *Into the Woods* if you are
interested in a specific role.

Those selected for callbacks will be contacted by
phone no later than 9:00 P.M. on March 2nd.

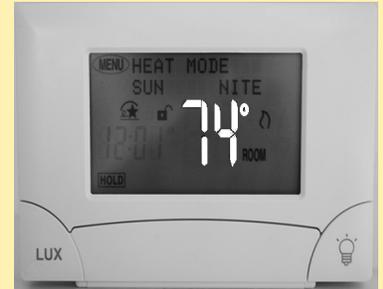
Please direct any questions to Christina Westenberger,
director, at christinawestenberger@yahoo.com

This fast-paced Sondheim classic examines some of our
most popular fairy tales in funny, thought-provoking
and sometimes touching ways. *Into the Woods* is
experiencing a cultural resurgence, with revivals in
2010 in Great Britain and 2012 in New York City, as
well as an upcoming movie adaptation being penned by
Sondheim and produced by Disney. *Into the Woods* is a
fun, witty show that has pleased audiences around the
world since its debut in 1986.

12 Performances - June 5 - 21, 2014

For Your Comfort

Many of our patrons
find the temperature
level of the theater
affects them
differently - what one
person finds to be too
cool another person
finds to be too warm.
We all experience the
theater temperature differently. We have the
theater set at 74 degrees. If you find this to be too
cool, please bring a sweater or light jacket. We
are continually working to make your theater
experience more enjoyable.



Recent modifications now allow us to turn the
blower speed down while still keeping the theater
and lobby at a comfortable temperature. With this
newest change, you should no longer feel the cool
air or the heat blowing directly on you and the
noise level of the blowers should be considerably
quieter, resulting in a more enjoyable theatre
experience.

Please Help Our Little Piggy Bank become a **BIG** Piggy Bank!



Like every household, the Williamsburg Players has ever increasing bills: heat, phone, internet and a \$12K mortgage payment every month. We also have something else: production costs. Rights and royalties are ever increasing, along with scripts, lumber, costumes and set costs. And with every great play we produce the cost gets greater still. The recent HVAC modifications and sound tiles on the walls cost over \$25,000 to accomplish. Ticket sales account for a very small portion of our revenue. Grants are ever decreasing. The only way we, as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization can keep our doors open is through YOUR generosity - YOUR donations. We rely on your kindness and ongoing support and are forever in your debt. As we strive to make the James-York Playhouse the BEST theater in town, we realize that we cannot do it without your help. Please consider a donation at this time to help us continue what we do - bring you "Community Theatre at its Best!" for another 57 years!



D. Hugh Siggins

A Message from the President

This is the time year that gets confusing, as we are working on two seasons at the same time; wrapping up the 2013-2014 season and making plans for the new 2014-2015 productions. We are looking at things that could have been better this year and are determined not to face those same problems for next season, and that is why we are always looking for comments from our patrons and longtime supporters. Therefore, our current question is how do we increase our season subscriptions back to the 1200-1250 level for the 2014-2015 season? In my opinion, this must be done by creating the urge

by our patrons to support our musicals and plays because we are presenting plays that people want to see. Some shows may be familiar with our audiences wanting to see them again. Others are new and being performed for the first time at our theater. These are the instructions given to our season selection committee at the beginning of the year. We need to put people in our seats. We have 300 empty seats at the beginning of each performance and we ask "how many of those seats can be filled?"

Now is the time of the season when we need to finish strong! As I write this article, our Valentine's concert, *From Broadway With Love*, with the many talented musicians and vocal artists will be performing for you, our audiences. I always enjoy showing off the talent we have here in the Williamsburg Players' community, and I hope you had the opportunity to attend this concert.

Next on our stage will be our three week run of *Rough Crossing* with Alex Morse directing, who replaced Larry Shaw when he moved back to the Seattle, Washington region. Tickets are currently available for this show, either by calling the box office or by purchasing your tickets at www.williamsburgplayers.org. *Rough Crossing* is a comedy about a theatrical group on a ship coming to their opening in New York and having a rough crossing. See the director's article on page one of this newsletter. Our Children's Theatre production in April is *Once Upon a Time*. We hope this will appeal to our younger patrons, who so far this season have enjoyed our very successful Children's Programs.

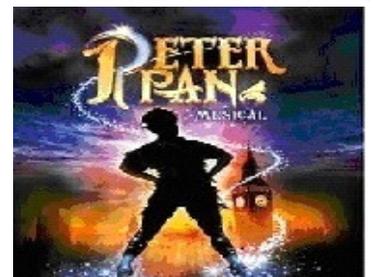
By the time you read this article, our theater will have been set up with the T-Loop coil system which allows hearing aid wearers who have this capability to connect automatically to our sound system. If you utilize this system, please let us know how it works for you. We thank Dr. Hecker and Associates for their support in setting up this T-Loop system. We will be thanking him and advertising to all that it is available.

Lastly, we welcome Michael Westenberger to the Board of Directors as our Marketing Director. We are looking at ways to make sure we are reaching the community in the most economical way possible. Thank you Michael for accepting this position.



Raise your hand if YOU would like to be a part of the exciting world of community theatre? Are you good with computers? Being part of our Box Office staff affords you the opportunity to "work from home" on a non-show day and only requires two-hours of your time at the theater on a show day. The reward is that as a volunteer you get a FREE ticket to see the production! Production opportunities exist for building sets, painting, hanging lights, running the

light board, working backstage or collecting props. Non-production help, such as selling concessions or ushering also gets you a FREE ticket! We have many wonderful opportunities available to become a part of the theatre and at the same time make new friends! Become part of the WP family of volunteers today! Give Carol Moff a call today at (757) 503-4364 and say **SIGN ME UP!**



Coming This Summer

9 Performances

July 18 - 27, 2014

Tickets Now On Sale