

Stage Whispers



November

2015

Vero Beach
Theatre Guild

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In Memoriam

Richard (Dick) Stark was a low-key friend to the Guild...his support of our efforts came by way of his attendance at all our shows and Fundraisers (he and his lovely wife Diana even came to our Genie Awards this year!), but also to the many donations he made over the years. His last two contributions allowed us to upgrade our Hearing Assistance Program with new equipment and headsets.

I always watched him on the night of his Season tickets...laughing long and hard at an outrageous farce, or humming along to a catchy tune in a hit musical.

He was always quick to congratulate us on a success, but his knowledgeable critique of our Sound System pushed us harder to remedy its faults.

As the 2014 recipient of the Richard A. Stark Award for Cultural Leadership, from the Cultural Council of IRC, I will always be grateful that a man of his integrity took an interest in the Theatre Guild. His passing at the beginning of October leaves a very large void in the cultural soul of Indian River County.



NOV 5-22

music Marc Shaiman;
lyrics Marc Shaiman & Scott Wittman; book
by Mark O'Donnell & Thomas Meehan

Winner of 8 TONY Awards, including Best Musical, **HAIRSPRAY** is "a family friendly musical piled high with laughter, romance and deliriously tuneful songs" —music publisher MTI. It ran on Broadway from 2002 to 2009 in over 2,500 performances and



Dana Rogers, Larry Thompson, Shelley Adelle

more surprisingly, broke records in London, winning 11 Lawrence Olivier Awards.

The Vero Beach Theatre Guild has pulled out all the stops, starting with the selection of award winning director Ben Earman, a magnet for local theatrical talent. His experienced production team includes choreographer Andrew Currie, music director Karen Wiggins, stage manager Lisa Keeler, producer Carole Strauss and a cast of 34 actors.

Set in 1962 Baltimore, the lovable plus-size teen, Tracy Turnblad (Dana Rogers), dreams to dance on the popular Corny Collins (Derrick Paul) show. When her dream comes true, Tracy is transformed from social outcast to overnight celebrity. Because blacks are only allowed to perform on the show once a month, on "Negro Day", hosted by Motormouth Maybelle (Vallery Valentine), Tracy launches a campaign to integrate the show. This infuriates the show's villainous producer, Velma Von Tussle (Shelley Adelle), portrayed by Michelle Pfeiffer in the 2007 movie version of the musical. If you're familiar with HAIRSPRAY, you know that Tracy's mother, Edna (Larry Thompson), is played in drag, as John Travolta did in that same film.



Shelley Adelle, Kelly Clemenzi, Logan Ray

Other principal characters include Amber Von Tussle (Kelly Clemenzi), Link Larkin (Logan Ray Tyler), Penny Pingleton (Jillian Lopes), Little Inez (Shannon McNair), Wilbur Turnblad (Kent Leonard) and Seaweed Stubbs (Keenan Carver). Laura Zelnar and Thomas Duplese play multiple roles in the show. The "Dynamites" include Belinda Bartley, Jasmine Bell and Courtney Godwin. Council members are Abby Bolduc, Tori Foster, Jenni Karabensh, Nate Karabensh, Jessica Karr, Jett Morrow, Jack Stenger and Walter Wells IV. Motormouth Maybelles Gang includes Kenna Colley, Javaune Daley, Meshele Freeze, Samarian Freeze, Marla Hamilton and Andre Schofield. The adult ensemble consists of Claude Cooper, Sandi Hellstrom, Jill Kober and Brian Lacerda. (submitted by Larry Strauss)



BEN EARMAN
Director HAIRSPRAY

Ben has been active with the Guild now for over 15 years. He has appeared in numerous productions and has won multiple Genie Awards for both his acting and directing. He is thrilled be directing again for the Guild after having directed the productions of SWEET CHARITY and THE MIRACLE WORKER, which the latter earned numerous Genie Awards including Best Set Design and Best Production of the Year. He currently again serves on the Board of Directors and also on many committees within the Guild. He holds a BA degree in Musical Theatre from The University of Tampa and has taught theatre in both the high school and middle school level. He has performed and directed with many theatres along the Treasure Coast and professionally with Busch Gardens Tampa. He currently is employed with The Sunrise Theatre in Fort Pierce.



Jim Daly

Jim has been involved with VBTG since 2004, acquiring numerous Genie Awards as a result of his contributions. Jim is a successful real estate Broker with Coldwell Banker Paradise Realtors, a profession he has enjoyed since 1988. .

A Letter From Our President

As we await our spotlights to once again bathe the wood grains of our Guild stage for “Hairspray’s” Opening Night on November 5th, we’re still reeling after the side splitting hilarity of “Run For Your Wife”. What a fabulously funny way to open our season. Our audiences loved it and the numbers will undoubtedly show what an incredible financial success it was.

These are exciting times at the Vero Beach Theatre Guild; Our Annual Open House had a record breaking number of members and future volunteers attend, (although we’re always looking for more). We just finished casting Social Security, our January uproarious comedy and auditions for “The King and I” are right around the corner (November 8th, 9th, 15th and 16th).

As you no doubt noticed, our building expansion is getting close to completion. Its three floors have grown as tall as it will get. All we need are some finishing details including utility connections, a little paint and other minor particulars, then we start moving in. You may have received information regarding our fundraising campaign to help pay for this much needed space. **Please consider contributing via one of the generous options you’ll see in this newsletter or call us at 772-562-8300 for helping underwrite this project.**

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers for making everything at our Theatre guild possible. Have you considered donating your time or perhaps consider sharing this gift of volunteerism with a family member, friend, co-worker or neighbor? We know what we have is special. We are a family who take great joy and pride in our artistic creations of live theater we present to our patrons. Perhaps you have considered yourself (or know someone who would) love to be included in the same creative process we routinely experience. We hope you consider your time to our theater and perhaps you can bring a friend as well.

With Warmest Regards,
Jim Daly



by Mark Wygonik

So close...and yet so far.

We are so close to having the Casting Our Future East Wing Expansion completed: the frameworks for the staircases were lowered by crane into place; cement treads have been poured; final roof planks will be laid; doors hung; bathroom fixtures installed; Final electrical, alarms and sprinklers activated; A/C Units positioned and hooked up; **Exterior painting done; Site landscaping planted...** (boy, it does seem like a lot), but these things are slated to be completed within the month. So yes, we are this close to getting the building up and running.

But now comes the time to buckle down and tighten our spending so we can finish the interiors and get in and start using the space for all the many things we need it for: Dressing Rooms, Rehearsal Space, Costume Storage.

And now comes the time to work harder on fundraising, so that we can pay off the mortgage we took out to finish construction. **We did the same thing when we expanded in the early 90’s: moving our stage 180 degrees to the North,** adding fly space and a proper lighting system, and raking the house and replacing uncomfortable church pews with padded theatre seats. We were able to pay off that mortgage thru creative Fundraising, hard work, and the generosity of our Community, who recognized the worth of a Volunteer-based Community Theatre open to anyone with a passion for the performing arts.

We are counting on our Community even more as we begin this next exciting phase of the Guild’s existence. So we ask everyone involved with the Guild...whether you are a Season Subscriber, Member, or Volunteer...to consider how you can help us with our Fundraising efforts. Your contribution, no matter what size, will go toward the Building Fund Campaign, as we continue to produce top-quality Theatre for the Treasure Coast.



Robert Hanks, Box Office Manager

HE'S BACK.....Sometimes the people we work with on a daily basis take a vacation, or even do the unthinkable....they get sick. During a routine physical, Robert Hanks, our Box Office Manager, was told to report to the hospital on Monday. Robert's response, like all good show business people, was "But can't it wait until after the show?" The doctor told Robert that he needed heart surgery. You, our dedicated theatre lovers, were very patient while volunteers worked hard to fill in with the myriad details of computer ticket sales and exchanges. That is just a small part of what this extraordinary man does for us on a daily basis.

Robert came from a show business family. He grew up in California and his adventurous spirit became fodder for his mother's human interest stories in the local paper. His brother was an actor and dancer, and his daughter caught the bug early as well. Robert can dance and sing! He got cast in Guys and Dolls in high school and remained close with show business friends. Robert's professional career was with Ticketmaster for many years so the fit is perfect.

We know you are glad he is back and we are singing "Alleluia." We could share a few other interesting tidbits with you, but we really like this guy and want him around for a long time. So certain showbiz secrets stay behind the curtain. We wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank Robert for his years of service. He started as a volunteer four years ago. When responsibilities grew, Robert decided to accept the job of Box Office Manager. Thankfully his talents have helped us grow even more.

THANK YOU!

On October 11th the VBTG held its annual Open-



House. Thank you to everyone who attended, and if you missed it, we'll have another one next year. Don't miss it! This year, you

could watch a rehearsal of "Hairspray," go behind the set to see what happens, take a tour of the theatre and enjoy some light refreshments. **The winners of the tickets to "Hairspray"** were: Gary Barth, Jane McCandless and Joe Carter!

UPCOMING AUDITIONS

Auditions for *The King and I* will be held at the VBTG: Nov 8, 9, 15, 16 @ 6pm/youth, 7pm adults.

Directed by Clara McCarthy;
Music Direction by Elyse Larkins;
Choreography by Stacy Miller



Casting needs: Children ages 6 and up; Women and Men ages 20 - 60 years—"The Masses" of people from Vero Beach. Check our website verobeachtheatreguild.com for additional information.



January 7-17, 2016
Written by: Andrew Bergman
Directed by: Leslie Christoffel

"Just when you were beginning to think you were never going to laugh again on Broadway, along comes Social Security... The play is a hoot, and better yet, a sophisticated, even civilized hoot." - The New York Post

This hilarious comedy is about a married couple, both art dealers, whose tranquility is shattered by the arrival of the wife's goody-goody sister, her uptight CPA husband and a Jewish mother.



VOLUNTEERS wanted. Are you interested in volunteering at the Vero Beach Theatre Guild? Well, we are interested in *YOU*. Have an interest in acting? We have an audition for you to attend. Would you like to usher? We can use you! Do you have experience as a Stage Manager or Director? **Let us know and we'll match you up with an upcoming production.** These are just a few of the areas you can volunteer in. Visit our website @ verobeachtheatreguild.com and click on **Volunteers at the top of the page, scroll down to "Contact our Volunteer Coordinator" and a form will come up for you to fill out.** Leave your information and Laretta will contact you. Thank you.

Vero Beach Theatre Guild

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VISIT US AT:
verobeachtheatreguild.com

TICKET HOTLINE:
772-562-8300 or
verobeachtheatreguild.com

President: Jim Daly
Vice President: Bill Lembeck
Treasurer: Carole Strauss
Secretary: Joy Wild
Directors:
Debbie Chastain
Marlys Kauten
Roberta Rose
Lloyd Lininger
Ben Earman



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CURRENT OCCUPANT OR

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JAN 7-17
SOCIAL SECURITY
written by Andrew Bergman
Social Security

MAR 3-20
THE KING AND I music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics and book by Oscar Hammerstein II
The King and I

MAY 12-22
THE NERD written by Larry Shue
THE NERD

Dates To Remember

- ◆ Oct. 31 HALLOWEEN / 2015 Celebrate the Arts Festival Riverside Park 10-4. Live performance by Guild On The Go —VB TG will have a booth – **stop in and see what's happening**
- ◆ Nov. 1 (2 a.m.) Daylight Savings Time Ends, Standard Time begins—set those clocks back one hour!
- ◆ Nov. 8, 9, 15, 16 - 6pm Auditions for *The King and I*

TICKET HOTLINE:
772-562-8300 or
PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE:
verobeachtheatreguild.com

Box Office Hours: 10-2 Mon-Fri and 1 hour prior to curtain time



Hearing Assist Devices Available
Inquire at Box Office

