

Stage Whispers



September

2015

Vero Beach
Theatre Guild

Inside this issue:

- Guild President Letter 2
- East Wing Expansion 2
- Run For Your Wife* (cont.) 3
- Clean up Day Review 3
- HAIRSPRAY Auditions 3
- Volunteer Stars 3
- Upcoming Shows 4
- Dates to Remember 4
- Ticket Hotline 4
- Find Us On Facebook 4

Well Wishes

Robert Hanks, our Box Office Manager, had a 4-way bypass recently. He's recuperating & we're anxiously waiting to get him back in the Box Office

Happy 90th Birthday (Aug. 18) to Carlos Brooks, our freshly retired VBTG veteran volunteer.

Wendy O'Neil is recovering from recent surgery. We hope to see her on stage soon!

Get Well Quick to Nancy Kelly, a rising actor on our stage.

Theatre Guild kicks off 58th season with



Written
by: Ray
Cooney

Directed
by: Art
Pingree



Michael Flipse & Jason Avery



Lorina Beniamino, Robin Scent & Leslie Christoffel (left to right)

Following one of the most successful seasons in its storied history, the Vero Beach Theatre Guild is launching a new season with Ray Cooney's famous farce comedy, *Run for Your Wife*.

Cab driver John Smith (Doy Demsick) might be a contender for "world's happiest man". His loving wife Mary (Leslie Christoffel) caters to his physical needs for food, drink and comfort. Four minutes away, HIS OTHER LOVING WIFE, Barbara (Lorina Beniamino), caters to bedroom activities that have little to do with sleeping.

(Continued on page 3)



ART PINGREE
DIRECTOR/SET DESIGNER

Last season, Art Pingree directed the very successful *Whose Wives Are They Anyway*, so we asked him to return to direct "Run For Your Wife".

Art began his acting career in community theater and worked every available stage in the Pittsburgh area. He moved to New York City graduating from The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in 1972. Art has worked off Broadway and throughout the country, extensively in dinner theater, with the likes of Virginia Mayo, Gloria DeHaven, and Adam Twelve's Martin Milner. Art also has performed in over 100 summer stock productions. One summer, he met his wife Mary, on stage, and ended up following her to Kansas City. That was over forty years ago. Art says "We're still working on the first act!". It has been a great pleasure working with the Vero Beach Theater Guild. Thank you for allowing me to play my part in this production.



Jim Daly

Jim has been involved with VBTG since 2004, acquiring numerous Genie Awards as a result of his contributions. He previously served on the Board of Directors before his election as President this past June. Jim is a successful real estate Broker with Coldwell Banker Paradise Realtors, a profession he has enjoyed since 1988.

A Letter From Our President

I'm writing my first Stage Whispers President's Letter under the gun, against the deadline, hoping I don't get another loving email from our Editor/Volunteer Coordinator, Laretta, reminding me when she needs this by.

These are exciting times as we just finished a rush of events; our Summer Show *Broadway to Hollywood to Broadway*, auditions for *Run For Your Wife* and *Hairspray*. We have a ton of stuff coming up; our season is about to open, with the two productions in rehearsal, construction on our expansion is moving **up to the 2nd floor, we just had our Annual Clean up...** So, as your new President, I'm realizing a new normal of high intensity activity level.

I have some big shoes to fill. Mark Wygonik just finished three of the most productive and financially profitable years in our 58 year history. **I've been leaning on him to help with my transition in an extremely critical time for our theatre.** Now that the expansion project is going vertical, we need to plan the logistics of filling it, using it and paying for it.

We are outlining an aggressive fundraising campaign which will include direct mailings, grant writing and our usual spot productions mixed in with our seasonal shows.

But for right now we're focusing on our first show of our fabulous 2015-16 season, *Run For Your Wife*. It's always fascinating watching a production grow from the first day of auditions, to opening night, September **10th. The cast is mixed with veteran Guild standbys along with "newbies" on our stage for the first time.** I'm confident our patrons will be pleasantly surprised from the opening unveiling of a very unique raked set, to the endless hilarity that unfolds throughout the play. This will be a great way to open our season.

Finally, I would like to preemptively thank all the volunteers for taking on all the work that lays ahead over the next few months. I would also ask everyone to consider sharing this gift of volunteerism with their friends, co-workers, neighbors and relatives. 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. I believe there are acquaintances in our lives today who would love to be included in the same creative process we routinely experience. All we need to do is ask them.



by Mark Wygonik

Watching the progress as the Guild's three-story addition...the East Wing Expansion...goes up should certainly be satisfying to all of us. We spent three long years planning this moment in our history: Getting input from you, our Members & Volunteers; Defining and refining the immediate and future needs of our organization; Meeting with the Architect and Builder every month to review all the details; Agonizing over the Financials with Bookkeepers, Treasurers, and Bankers. It was not easy, nor always pleasant, but we never took our collective eye off the end product.

When the final block has been laid, when the exterior paint has dried, when the parking lot becomes completely navigable again, and we can get back to the "normal drama" of putting on great Community Theatre, we need to remember to thank all of those individuals who believed in our vision and helped us get here with their donations of time, talent, and money. **And we need to remember what our original purpose was for this Expansion: to give you, our Volunteers...all 270 per year...new Dressing Rooms, Rehearsal Space, and Costume Storage. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to lead you for the past three years as we made this journey together...I am excited to explore our East Wing Expansion's potential. I trust that the future will see only great things happening for the Vero Beach Theatre Guild.**

(RUN FOR YOUR WIFE — Continued from page 1)



With his irregular schedule, John confidently has his double life down to a science. This **cabbie's dirty little secret starts to unravel**, however, when he gets caught up in a mugging incident and the wrong wife shows up at the hospital.

The lies get bigger and bigger as the other wife and two police detectives enter the picture. They are compounded when his upstairs friend and neighbor, Stanley (Jason Avery), makes absurd attempts to help in the deceit. Now you have the premise for *Run for Your Wife* and the aftermath is hilarious chaos.

Run for Your Wife is directed by Art Pingree, assisted by stage manager, Sue Nalepa and producer, James Schorner. Additional cast members include: Mike Flipse as Bobby (another neighbor); Steve Pagano and Robin Scent as police detectives and Brian Lacerda as a newspaper reporter. 🚫



Thank you to all the volunteers who showed up to our annual Clean up Day. We got a lot done and our Theatre is shining again!



Tracy Turnblad is a “pleasantly plump” Baltimore teenager who dreams of dancing on the “Corny Collins Show”, a 1962 American Bandstand-type TV program. Given a warning for “inappropriate hair height”, she learns R & B moves from the black kids at detention and wins a spot on the program. As a celebrity, she causes a furor by launching a campaign to integrate the show.

With 2,642 performances from 2002-09, 8 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and a fantastic upbeat score, *Hairspray* is one of the most successful musical comedies in Broadway history.



November 5 – 22, 2015
 Directed by: Ben Earman
 Music Direction by: Karen Wiggins;
 Choreography by: Andrew Currie

UPCOMING AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held at the Vero Beach Theatre Guild for *Social Security* on:
 Sun., Oct. 4, 7pm;
 Mon., Oct. 5, 7pm; Sun., Oct. 11, 7pm.

Casting needs:
 3 women ages 50-80
 3 men ages 50-80.

Check our website at verobeachtheatreguild.com for additional information.



STARS WANTED: We are now into our 58th year of providing the Treasure Coast area with great community theater. We could not do this **without our local community...who make up our volunteer force at the Vero Beach Theatre Guild.** If you would like to become a part of this wonderful organization, please join us!

Have **carpentry** skills? or want to learn what goes on **backstage**? Can act or sing or dance? Maybe you have some knowledge or experience working with a **sound board...or working with lighting...we NEED you!** Have you been a Stage Manager, Director, Set Dresser in the past? Let us know your skills & interests. To contact us, visit our website at verobeachtheatreguild.com and click on Volunteers at the top of the page then scroll down to Contact Our Volunteer Coordinator. A form will come up for you to fill out. After filling it out, hit SUBMIT and it will go directly to the Volunteer Coordinator. If you left a phone number, **you'll get a phone call within 24 hours.** We would love to make you part of our Star Force!

Vero Beach Theatre Guild

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Vero Beach, FL 32960



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

TEAR OFF AND SAVE THIS SECTION FOR QUICK REFERENCE 

2015 / 2016 Season

NOV 5-22



MAR 3-20



MAY 12-22

THE NERD written by Larry Shue

Dates To Remember

- ◆ Sept. 4 First Friday Gallery Stroll 5-8 pm
- ◆ Sept. 7 Labor Day; Box Office open 10-2
- ◆ Sept. 26 Downtown Vero Beach Friday Night 6-9 pm "Ladies of Soul" (R&B and Disco Hits)
- ◆ Oct. 4 VBTG Open House 2-4 pm
- ◆ Oct. 17 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, Riverside Park 9am. Performances by "Guild On The Go"
- ◆ Oct. 31 Cultural Art Council at Riverside Park 10-4 Performances by "Guild On The Go"

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