



## JUNE-JULY 2009

### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jim Hanushek

I'm going to keep my notes short this time to make room for information about some of the younger people in our community. One of the points mentioned at the Annual Meeting was finding a way to bridge the apparent gap between Lemon Bay Playhouse and those in the younger generations. The articles on our scholarship program, the Lemon Bay High School Theatre success, and the upcoming cooperation with Elsie Quirk Library are our initial attempts to reach young people and their parents.

I'm sure you noticed the change in the logo. The Board of Trustees worked with a marketing firm to create a logo that more accurately reflects our mission. As we add jazz concerts, musical comedy, and other types of performances, we are expanding well beyond the typical "community theater" image. The stage was added to the logo to depict this revised role of Lemon Bay Playhouse.

We have dubbed the performances that we schedule between our regular stage productions "interim productions". Sometimes, performers will contact us; sometimes we contact them. We are always open to suggestions for performers that you would like to see on our stage. If you have a suggestion, please call the box office (475-6756) and leave a message, or send an email to [info@lemonbayplayhouse.com](mailto:info@lemonbayplayhouse.com).

Season ticket sales are going well, despite the economy. Season tickets are available for purchase until July 31. For the new season, we reluctantly raised the price of each ticket by \$1 to cover the cost of our ticketing system. However, we did drop the processing fee that was charged with each order. The new cost of a flat \$16 per ticket is still one of the lowest in the area, and you do get the finest entertainment in the area!

See you at the Lemon Bay Playhouse,  
Jim Hanushek

### IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Monday, June 15, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PLAYHOUSE  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED!

### AUDITIONS FOR MURDER BY MISADVENTURE



Auditions for the first play of our 23rd Season, *Murder by Misadventure* by Edward Taylor, and directed by Steve Credeur, will be held at the theater on Sunday and Monday, July 12 and 13, at 7:00 pm. There are roles for three adult males and one adult female.

"Harold takes the plot of his latest bestseller and plans the perfect murder. But things begin to go badly wrong when the body disappears." ".....will keep audiences guessing until the final curtain." ...The Cleveland Sun Courier.

The show will run September 2-20, 2009, Wednesday through Sunday. A copy of the play is available for "on-site" reading at the Playhouse box office at 96 West Dearborn Street, Englewood.

### LBP AND ELSIE QUIRK LIBRARY JOIN FORCES



LBP and the youth services section of the Elsie Quirk Library are partnering this summer to provide a better environment for some of the summer programs held by the library. During the summer months, when many children are out of school, the Library brings in entertainment on specific days to provide needed recreation and learning experiences for the kids.

As they have no auditorium, Cristina Walton, Sr. Librarian for Youth Services, got in touch with Bob La Salle, our Production Manager, and asked if it would be possible for them to use our auditorium for some of the programs. Since these programs occur during the day and we are only a stone's throw away from the library, Bob saw no reason why we shouldn't. There will be storytelling, music, and even a magic show. This is just another way LBP can continue to be of service to our community.

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS



Darlene Benson

"You've been volunteering in the box office how long?" **Darlene Benson** has probably been a box office volunteer longer than any of our other active box office volunteers. Darlene isn't even sure of exactly when she started. It may have been as early as 2003. Time flies when you're having fun!

Originally from the west side of Cleveland, Ohio, Darlene trained to be a teacher, but she didn't pursue that profession. She spent a number of years as the owner and operator of a restaurant, and still loves to cook and try out new

recipes. In a completely different time in her working career, she was the first female line-man hired by TRW Worldwide, who build and package auto parts as one of their industrial activities. This was a real gender breakthrough.

Darlene moved to Englewood in July of 1997. Her parents had lived here for 20 years, and her visits had made her familiar with the area. Their health was deteriorating, and she felt that it was a good time to move nearby and be as much help to them as she could.

When asked how she discovered Lemon Bay Playhouse, Darlene explained that she had attended a number of plays with her mother. One day when she stopped by to purchase tickets for an upcoming performance, Helen Iler, the friendly volunteer on duty, helped her choose seats for the play. After watching everything that Helen did, Darlene decided that this was a volunteer opportunity that she could really enjoy.

Trained by Sue Fell and Carol Barnett, Darlene was soon able to be on her own answering the phone and selling tickets to theatre patrons. With her natural gift of gab and friendly manner, she fit into the box office routine beautifully. Over the years, she's taken innovations like using a credit card machine and moving to computer ticketing in her stride. Darlene says that she especially enjoys meeting interesting individuals at the window and working with the other great volunteers at LBP.

When not at LBP, Darlene is an avid boater and loves passing on this passion to her two grandsons, Zachary aged 8 and Jonathan aged 6. They are the children of her son, John, and his wife, Maria, who still live in Cleveland.

Darlene also enjoys working on the computer and playing the piano. She recently accompanied the Myakka Elementary School fifth grade in their performance of "The Wizard of Oz". As a sideline, Darlene teaches beginning piano lessons to adult students. If that isn't enough, she is also the president of her condo association at Oakshores at Lemon Bay.

## BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE GRACES OUR STAGE NEXT

*Butterflies are Free*, written by Leonard Gershe and directed by Michele Strauss, is about Don, a blind young bachelor, played by Ryan Dowd Urch. Don is trying to become a songwriter and escape from an overprotective mother, played by veteran Michelle Neitzel. He is in his own apartment in NYC for the first time and has been there for a month, when Jill, a pretty young actress, played by Molly Healy, moves in next door. Jill proposes friendship (and more) and the permanent opening of the connecting door between the apartments. When mother and girl meet, they simply do not mix. The plot thickens when Ralph, Jill's director played by another veteran of our stage, Charlie Tyler, proposes that Jill move in with him. A charming, funny, and, at times, heartwarming play. "...Humorous, winning and quietly moving." *NY Post*.

LBP is pleased to welcome Ryan and Molly for their first appearance on our stage.

The play opens on June 24th and runs until July 12th with performances Wednesday through Sunday. Get your tickets early. You won't want to miss this one.



Seated: l-r, Director Michele Strauss, Ryan Dowd Urch, Molly Healy. Standing: l-r, Michelle Neitzel, Charlie Tyler.

## WANTED: FRIENDLY VOLUNTEERS

Are you a smiling, helpful person, who likes to meet people? We have **two great volunteer opportunities** for you. First, we need folks to volunteer in the box office. You must have some computer skills for this job, since our ticketing is all done on the computer. The box office is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and one hour before each performance. You choose the days/evenings that you'd like to volunteer.

The second opportunity is volunteering as a house manager. Those are the great folks, who greet you when you arrive at the playhouse, take your tickets, hand out programs, make that delicious punch, and serve refreshments at intermission time.

If either of these activities sounds like something that you'd enjoy, just call the box office, or stop by to fill out a volunteer application. Then, our experienced volunteers will show you the ropes. The box office number is 475-6756. We're waiting for you to call.

## LBP SUPPORTS LEMON BAY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE DEPARTMENT

The Lemon Bay High School Theatre Department is putting Englewood, Florida, on the map! They recently traveled to the Florida State Thespian Festival to perform two back-to-back performances of *The Wedding Singer* at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, in Ferguson Hall, for over two thousand Florida thespians and two adjudicators from the International Thespian Society.

The judges selected Lemon Bay High School Theatre as one of the "Top Seven" high school theatre programs in the world, and invited them to perform at the International Thespian Festival in late June, held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Lemon Bay's thespians made such an impression on the attending adjudicators that they advised the board to schedule *The Wedding Singer* as the closing performance of the festival.

It will cost over \$80,000 to send these high school thespians to the festival at Lied Center for the Performing Arts on June 27, 2009. For those who want to donate, one of their patrons has established a matching fund up to \$12,500. In other words, anything you donate to their cause will be matched dollar for dollar!

It costs roughly \$1,500 dollars per student to attend Internationals. Three perpetual plaques will be placed in the lobby of the Lemon Bay Performing Arts Center recognizing "Cast & Crew Sponsors" that make donations of \$500+, \$1,000+, and \$2,000+. These sponsors will be memorialized as supporters of this internationally acclaimed cast and crew.

You can also support the cast and crew by attending one of the benefit performances of *The Wedding Singer*. Those performances will be held on Thursday, June 18, and Friday, June 19. Both performances begin at 7:00 PM at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 701 Carmalita St, Punta Gorda. You can purchase tickets online at [www.lbhstheatre.com](http://www.lbhstheatre.com), call the box office at (941) 626-0688, or purchase them at the door



LBP Executive Director Jim Hanushek, right, presents a generous donation to members of the Lemon Bay HS cast of *The Wedding Singer* currently fundraising to attend the International Thespian Festival in Nebraska to perform their award-winning musical production. Accepting the check are seniors (l-r) Maggie Langlais, Marah Ernest, (back row) Cheyenne Teeple, Kristyn Greco and Director, Jennifer Kelly.

## LBP SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

On Wednesday, May 20, Lemon Bay Playhouse awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating students of Lemon Bay High School. Katie Harrison and Lee Walton will apply those funds to their schooling next year. In addition to their scholarships, Katie and Lee were presented with invitations to attend a performance of our next play, *Butterflies Are Free*, along with their families.

Arlene Knight represented Lemon Bay Playhouse in all communication between LBP and the High School, keeping us apprised of needed information and deadlines. She and Phyllis Rollo, a Board member, consulted and then presented three applicants to the Board for consideration. Based on their previous work in the performing arts and their goals of future performing activity, the Board made the selection of the two recipients.



Katie Harrison

If you've recently been to a performance of one of the amazing productions done by the Lemon Bay High School Drama Department, you have seen Katie Harrison on the stage, most recently in *The Wedding Singer*. In addition to her onstage and offstage roles, she has also found time to work with the Lemon Bay Performing Arts Academy as an instructor. She has been accepted at the University of Central Florida where she plans on studying to become a physical therapist specializing in dance therapy.

Lee Walton has been active in a different aspect of performance: instrumental music. He has honed his skill on trumpet to the point where he performs throughout the United States with a drum corps. He is also an accomplished guitar player on both electric and acoustic guitars. He has even composed and arranged musical pieces for the high school marching band. Lee's study path will take him to a degree and a career in musical composition.



Lee Walton

In addition to our scholarships for graduating seniors, Lemon Bay Playhouse also offers scholarships to younger children for their tuition at the Lemon Bay Performing Arts Academy. Six young people, who otherwise would have been financially unable to do so, were able to attend the winter performing arts camp. LBP will also be able to offer some support for the summer program as well.

The funds to support our scholarships all came from the 50/50 raffle sales that took place at each performance last season. The 50/50 for the upcoming season will once again be used to replenish the scholarship fund.



### DIVA AND THE ITALIAN GUY

Back by popular demand, the Diva and the Italian Guy will return to the LBP stage on August 22 and August 23. Look for details in the next issue. Don't miss this great comedy/musical act!



96 W. Dearborn Street  
Englewood, FL 34223



## *Celebrating our 22nd Season!*

### 2008-2009 SEASON



**WAIT UNTIL DARK** by Frederick Knott  
**THE PLAY'S THE THING** by Ferenc Molnar  
(Adapted by P.G. Wodehouse)  
**THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL** by Horton Foote  
**ANGEL STREET** (Gas Light) by Patrick Hamilton  
**NORMAN, IS THAT YOU?** by Ron Clark &  
Sam Bobrick  
**BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE** by Leonard Gershe

September 3-21, 2008  
October 29 - November 16, 2008  
January 7-25, 2009  
March 4-22, 2009  
April 29 - May 17, 2009  
June 24-July 12, 2009

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LBP Box Office is open Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Phone 941-475-6756

**Visit our website at: [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com)**

"It is the mission of Lemon Bay Playhouse to enrich Englewood and surrounding communities through theatrical productions, volunteer opportunities, education and training in the performing arts, and to provide a venue for other cultural activities."