



## AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2009

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jim Hanushek

The 2008-2009 season was our best so far, and we owe it all to the outstanding volunteer actors, directors, and crew who made it possible! Audiences were especially enthralled by the performances provided by our veterans, Doreen Barnett in *The Trip to Bountiful* and Ron Bupp in *Norman, Is That You?*. Almost every play featured actors new to our stage, and they all provided absolutely wonderful performances! All of our actors, whether in a large or small role,

brought professional quality to our stage!

This past season, too, we were able to provide a variety of entertainment as part of our "Interim Series." These weekend shows provided music, comedy, and drama on our stage between our regular plays. The weekend shows for this coming season promise an even greater variety of performances! We're kicking them off with a return visit by *Diva* and the *Italian Guy*. See details in this newsletter.

You've seen the list of plays for this coming season, and evidently our play selection committee did a great job: our season ticket sales for the coming year are more than 10% greater than last year! That's great news for Lemon Bay Playhouse, but a challenge to those who don't have season tickets, since it also means that there will be 10% fewer single tickets available for them!

Beginning this season, you may see Ron Bupp around the Playhouse from time to time, though not always on the stage! He has joined us as our Artistic Manager, working together with Bob LaSalle, our Production Manager, and myself as Executive Director. Ron has added his comments to this newsletter to introduce himself and his areas of responsibility.

As we start into the new season, we will be looking for additional volunteers to help with all facets of operating the theater. If you have any skill at all, we can use you! If you have no skill at all, we can train you! Please consider helping us make this the best theater that we can!

See you at the Playhouse,

Jim Hanushek

### RON BUPP NAMED LBP'S ARTISTIC MANAGER

When I retired to the Englewood area nine years ago, I thought my 50 plus years of earning a living acting, singing, and dancing in theatres all across America was over. However, one day out of curiosity I walked into an audition at the Lemon Bay Playhouse. The first thing I noticed was how different it appeared from most other theatres where I had worked. It was squeaky clean and well organized and oh so friendly. I figured they must have a well paid staff. As I became acquainted with the theatre through my acting roles, I began to realize how well the business and financial operations were being performed. I also became aware of the professional quality of the acting by the performers on stage. And I was amazed to realize that all of this was being accomplished by VOLUNTEERS. If there is a paramount reason for the success of this wonderful, bracingly intimate theatre, it is the volunteers.

In addition to performing, I had been fortunate in my career to have experienced almost every phase of theatre operation including the management and day-to-day running of a professional theatre and the producing and directing of stage productions. So when the LBP board and Executive Director Jim Hanushek asked me to take over the artistic management of the theatre and work along with Production Manager Bob LaSalle I was ready and eager.

My goal as Artistic Manager is simple: to continue to maintain and even improve the LBP theatre experience and fulfill our mission "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."

The popularity and sell-out success of our recently completed season demonstrates the excellent work being done by our play selection committee, headed by Rosie Tremo, in ensuring that we pick

BUPP (Continued on page 3)

### IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, August 17, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Monday, September 21, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PLAYHOUSE  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED!

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS



Janet Landis

“What can I do to help?” seems to epitomize Janet Landis’s approach to work that needs to be done. Perhaps, it comes from growing up on a farm in western Pennsylvania, where Janet learned to be self-reliant and competent in accomplishing the many types of activities required of farm living.

As an adult, Janet held a variety of jobs. She was a part owner of a bridal shop, handling custom made gowns and floral arrangements, as well as catering weddings. Her artistic eye also served her well when

she was a wedding photographer. She’s been a realtor, worked for Alcoa, and then for Epic Metals Corporation, where she met and married her husband, Donald.

Being active in a community seems to be Janet’s vocation rather than avocation. As a Rotarian for twenty-one years, she gained inspiration from the “hands on approach” taken by Rotary members when asked to help accomplish a goal. In the Rotary Club of Brad-dock, PA, she served as the first woman president and was chairman for the Pittsburgh District Conference in 1995.

Janet and Donald relocated to Florida 15 years ago, and three years later moved to Englewood from busy Naples. Janet joined Rotary and was soon immersed in busy projects, including chairing the Annual Fine Arts Festival for more than six years. She initiated moving the Festival to Dearborn Street, finding ready acceptance by the merchants. This great success prompted her to start the December Fine Arts Festival, also held on Dearborn Street.

Janet’s love of art and the creative people associated with the art world led her to open Lemon Tree Gallery in 2003. Becoming a part of Dearborn Street as a business owner soon had her helping with other events on the street. It seemed most appropriate that she would become a member of The Olde Englewood Village Association, where she served as President from 2007-2009.

Janet soon recognized Lemon Bay Playhouse as an untapped, unknown beautiful work of art. Rosie Tremo and Linda MacCluggage encouraged Janet to move beyond just enjoying attending plays and run for election to the Board of Trustees for Lemon Bay Playhouse. That was four years ago. She considers herself very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to serve this wonderful organization.

Last season, when the LBP lobby began to look a bit seedy, Janet spearheaded the refurbishing effort. She envisioned a welcoming area, where theater goers would enjoy visiting before the plays and during intermissions. Once new wiring and lighting were installed, she and Phyllis Rollo, a fellow board member, spent many hours scraping and painting. Benches were screwed together and put in place. Janet and her daughter-in-law designed the drapes and cushions, and the lobby had a finished, dramatic look.

Reelected to the LBP Board this year, Janet has been inspired once again to take part in a “hands on approach” to accomplish a goal envisioned by a dynamic board. As President of the Board of Trustees, Janet believes that the community will be inspired, motivated, and ready to participate in the building of a new playhouse/performing arts center that will serve the entire community in so many ways.

## MURDER BY MISADVENTURE BY EDWARD TAYLOR FIRST PLAY OF THE NEW SEASON

Our opener this year is a mystery-thriller, *Murder by Misadventure* written by Edward Taylor and directed by a newcomer to our theatre, Steve Credeur. Steve has been seen many times at Venice Theatre and other theaters in the Sarasota area.

The writing team of Harry Kent, played by the long absent from our stage Neil Kasanofsky, and Paul Riggs, played by Robin Mazy, has won numerous awards and has made lots of money over the years. But while Harry has invested his earnings and lives in a luxury flat high above the Sussex coast, Paul has wasted his on booze and bad bets and lives in constant fear of bookies. Harry wants to sever their relationship, but Paul holds a sinister secret. Harry and his wife Emma, played by Michelle Neitzel, decide that murder seems the only escape — a murder much like the “perfect crime” they have just plotted for their latest film! But things begin to go badly wrong when the body disappears. Enter inspector Egan, played by Jack Rabito, full of smiling innuendo and razor-sharp intelligence. But all is not quite as it seems ... Guaranteed to send delicious frissons of fear through all ‘whodunnit’ fans. “... will keep audiences guessing until the final curtain.” ...The Cleveland Sun Courier.

The play opens on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and runs Wednesday through Saturday nights at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2:00 PM until September 20<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$16 each and can be purchased at the Box Office or on line at [Lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://Lemonbayplayhouse.com).



Director, Steve Credeur (right), gives notes to the cast of the season opener *Murder by Misadventure*. The play is in rehearsal and will open September 2. The cast includes, l-r: Michelle Neitzel, Neil Kasanofsky, Robin Mazy, and Jack Rabito.

## READERS THEATER RETURNS TO LBP

Readers Theater will resume its regular first Monday meetings at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, September 7, at the playhouse on Dearborn Street in Englewood. Larry McGee and Jim Zakas will select the plays. Please bring your friends, and remember, Readers Theater is open to anyone interested in performing or listening to plays. No experience is necessary.

See you there!

the right shows for the right time. We will continue to search for and select the best available directors for our shows and improve the audition procedure to attract talented actors from a wider geographical area. Working with the Education Coordinator, Ron Delbello, the continuing education of our existing talent pool will be expanded to insure that both new and experienced actors will be prepared to take on the challenging roles that will become available. We will also make an effort to bring the theatrical experience to the public schools in our area. Our Readers Theatre will continue to expand opportunities for actors and aspiring actors, to participate in our monthly sessions of reading from prepared scripts for fun and education. This same group will be taking prepared presentations of theatrical readings to area civic and social organizations to entertain and make the public more aware our theatre.

All of the above takes money. In order to supplement the income we receive from ticket sales for our regular season shows and more fully utilize our theatre building, we are greatly expanding what we call our Interim Entertainment Series. Headed by Jack Rabito, we are contracting with Florida area specialty acts to appear on week-ends when the theatre is not being used for our regular shows. These acts range from musical performances to acts similar to *An Evening with Mark Twain*.

Arlene Knight continues to give area artists the opportunity to display their work in our lobby for the enjoyment of hundreds of theatre goers.

Finally, this past season has proved conclusively that we must have a larger theatre. We have turned away hundreds of patrons who were unable to buy tickets to hit shows due to the small capacity of our theatre. An unbelievable amount of planning, dedication and hard work is being done to accomplish this goal. We will assist in this effort in every possible way. From that famous baseball movie *FIELD OF DREAMS*, "If we build it, they will come!"

### **SUGGESTIONS WANTED!**

Our "Interim Series" this season is booked with exciting acts, including big band, jazz, tribute shows, song writers and singers, Lindberg, Mark Twain, and Patsy Cline. These are shows between our scheduled "main stage performances."

This year, we believe we have put together the best season of music, drama, comedy and more in the history of LBP. When you attend any one or all of these performances, we know you will agree.

We need your suggestions on two items:

To help us out in future bookings, if you know of quality performing groups or individuals, please let us know. We will follow up and contact them about future dates.

The name "Interim Series" just isn't very inspiring. If you have a unique or creative name for this series of performances, please let us know.

If you can help us with either of these two items, please leave a message at the box office, (941) 475-6756, or send an email to [info@lemonbayplayhouse.com](mailto:info@lemonbayplayhouse.com)

Look for the "Interim Series" schedule in your playbill on your next visit to the playhouse. We will also be describing the shows in this newsletter as their performance dates approach. If you want to be entertained, the place to be is LBP.

### **DIVA AND THE ITALIAN GUY ENCORE!**



*Diva and the Italian Guy*, are returning to Lemon Bay Playhouse on Saturday, August 22, at 7:30 PM, and Sunday, August 23, at 2:00 PM. Marcy Downey and Buddy Sebastian (photo) have the spontaneous and fun style of a Vegas lounge act. Swing tunes, oldies, Broadway favorites, country, and comedy songs are all part

of the act. They'll even take your requests. Marcy's incredible singing voice has been hailed from coast to coast, and Buddy's Italian-American background is an endless source of hilarious stories and fractured versions of songs.

Marcy and Buddy sing the blockbuster song hits of the great divas and famous male entertainers: Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler, Judy Garland, Louis Prima-Keely Smith, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin and more. But that's just the beginning - the comedic chemistry between these two professionals on stage is irresistible, and the laughs just keep on coming. Not since Sonny and Cher, has a duo produced so much entertainment value.

This critically acclaimed duo has been performing together for over 30 years, on stages from Lake Tahoe, to Los Angeles, Boston, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Florida. Their show business experience includes stage, radio, TV, and movies, and they have appeared with such celebrities as Rodney Dangerfield, Fabian, Jack Carter, Pat Cooper, and others. During their two years as a featured act at Harrah's, Lake Tahoe, Buddy also hosted his own morning comedy radio show. Marcy's voice has been heard singing commercial jingles on radio stations throughout the country.

Because of their off-the-cuff style, and the interaction with the audience, the show is never exactly the same twice. They have FUN, and want to make sure the audience does too. It's a guaranteed good time!

Tickets, at only \$16 each, are available online at [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com) and at the Lemon Bay Playhouse Box Office, 96 W Dearborn Street, Englewood, phone (941) 475-6756.

### **A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE SET CONSTRUCTION BOSS**

As a few of you know, I was in the Venice Hospital on May 18, the day when we were to take down the *Norman Is That You?* set and put up the *Butterflies Are Free* set. The set crew had none of the plans. It was lucky that my daughter Kathy was here. I asked her to take my clipboard to the playhouse at 8:00 am. I'm very glad my crew knows what I expect of them when we put up a set. They did a beautiful job. We are lucky at the Playhouse to have such dictated people. My very best thanks go to the following crew members: Bob Dovali, Bob Gschwend, Jerry Price, Bob LaSalle, and Joe Rex. I'm a lucky crew boss.

Thanks again  
Jim Suchomel



96 W. Dearborn Street  
Englewood, FL 34223



*Celebrating our 23rd Season!*  
**2009-2010 SEASON**



**MURDER BY MISADVENTURE** by Edward Taylor  
**MARY, MARY** by Jean Kerr  
**SOUTHERN COMFORTS** by Kathleen Clark  
**THE MOUSETRAP** by Agatha Christie  
**ENCHANTED APRIL** by Mathew Barber  
**PAINTING CHURCHES** by Tina Howe

September 2-20, 2009  
October 28 - November 15, 2009  
January 6-24, 2010  
March 3-21, 2010  
April 28 - May 16, 2010  
June 23-July 11, 2010

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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."