



DECEMBER 2009 - JANUARY 2010

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jim Hanushek

Lemon Bay Playhouse is trying an experiment. Many theaters use one audition to cover several plays and we're hoping it will be successful for us. Read "Calling All Actors" in this newsletter. Please share that information with anyone you know who might be interested in auditioning at LBP.

It's getting close to that time of year when you think about what gift to get for whom. Well, I have a suggestion that will fit almost everyone! Gift certificates to Lemon

Bay Playhouse, of course! Our gift certificates are similar to gift cards in the way they work. You will enter a dollar amount of your choice, and the recipient can use it all at once or a little at a time for tickets to Lemon Bay Playhouse. The recipient can receive the gift via either email or the card pictured here. Gift certificates can be ordered through the box office in person or at (941) 475-6756, and soon (if not by the time you receive this newsletter) on our website.



One gift that you can give the playhouse won't cost you a dime! If you go to GoodSearch.com and register, select Lemon Bay Playhouse to support, they will donate 1¢ to us for each search. With everyone searching, that adds up in a hurry! While you're there, you will see info about GoodShop. Many online businesses offer a rebate to us through Goodshop, with some of the percentages quite substantial. If you buy online, please consider registering with GoodSearch and GoodShop.

My father spent his last three years in Pinebrook Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. One of the things he really appreciated was the opportunity to go on an excursion or field trip. Knowing how much residents of those homes like to get out, Lemon Bay Playhouse has been working with the local facilities. We have been able to seat some of their residents at some performances. Those residents talk about the experience for days afterwards.

See you at the theater!
Jim Hanushek

CALLING ALL ACTORS!



Executive Director, Jim Hanushek, works with Production Manager, Bob LaSalle, and Artistic Manager, Ron Bupp, to plan their first effort at a combination audition.

The Lemon Bay Playhouse is inviting all area actors and aspiring actors to attend an audition for the theater's final three shows of the current season. The audition will be held at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 2, at the Playhouse. Nineteen actors plus many volunteers are needed for *The Mousetrap*, by Agatha Christie and directed by Richard Blanchard, *Enchanted April*, by Matthew Barber and directed by Dale Moore, and *Painting Churches* by Tina Howe and directed by Mary Lou Ardrey.

Those auditioning will be asked to read a short comedic or dramatic monologue to be supplied by the theater. Actors will be given time at the audition to look over the material. In attendance to observe the auditions and select actors for the roles will be the three directors of the plays, Richard Blanchard, Dale Moore, and Mary Lou Ardrey. We are also inviting prospective directors for the 2010-2011 season. If you're interested in seeking a role at Lemon Bay Playhouse, this is an event that you can not miss!

Production Manager Bob LaSalle will interview those looking for backstage volunteer assignments. In fact, he's looking for all kinds of volunteers to help with various production tasks, including costumes. Ann Hanushek is also looking for box office help.

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, December 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PLAYHOUSE
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED!

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS



A typical whirlwind of activity, even before **Donna Vodraska** and her husband Bob left Chicago for the sunny shores of Florida, she was on the internet checking out volunteer activities. Volunteer Match connected her with Lemon Bay Playhouse. The Vodraskas moved to Venice in April, 2007, and the following month, Donna started volunteering at LBP before ever seeing one of our plays.

Donna has become one of our mainstays in the box office and helped to train other volunteers when we switched to computer ticketing. She's been active in the Readers Theater and participated in the outreach program, as well as performing in our Intermission Series. She and Bob are often seen selling 50/50 raffle tickets before performances.

When asked what she likes about LBP, Donna responded that she enjoys the close-knit family feeling at the Playhouse. It's a cohesive group united to accomplish something wonderful together. The volunteers are kind to each other, giving one a sense of belonging. She feels that it's a place where she can do some good and make a difference.

Her other volunteer work includes being membership chairperson for the Venice Newcomers Club, welcoming new residents to the area, and introducing them to activities available locally. She's also a lector and Eucharistic Minister at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice. Taking advantage of her performing abilities, she's recently become a storyteller at Venice Community Library and delights in keeping the little children mesmerized as she tells her tales. She's also a docent for children and adults at Historic Spanish Pointe, and she and Bob are presently living history performers in *Holiday Heritage*, reliving the lives of John and Eliza Webb, the earliest couple to settle on the west coast of Florida.

A native Chicagoan, Donna was a corporate trainer (computer skills, soft skills, company history) and heavily involved in the General Federation of Women's Clubs at the local, district, and state levels. She had served as the president of her local club, and most recently as the assistant director of junior clubs for the state of Illinois. One of her proudest moments came when she received the top leadership award for Illinois, just before moving to Florida. She was also a professional speaker for the Humanitarian Service Project and a fundraiser for services for disadvantaged children and elderly people. She volunteered for the People's Resource Center, her local church, and community theater.

Donna and Bob love to travel, and their Florida location gives easy access to cruises. Aruba is one of their favorite vacation places. This year they also visited Peru and were enthralled by the wonders of Machu Picchu. Next, they plan to visit Vietnam and Cambodia on a land and river cruise. On their future travel horizon will be trips to U.S. national parks.

We're certainly glad that the Vodraskas decided to move to Florida and share their lives with friends at LBP.

A MODERN DAY BOB DYLAN

On Saturday, December 19, at 7:30 PM, Lemon Bay Playhouse presents a singer with a message. Hank Woji, a former rock 'n' roll bassist from New Jersey, is now a Texas-based singer-songwriter whose efforts reflect on the state of the American nation. Woji, who blends folk, country, bluegrass, and rock influences in his music, is an astute writer and an engaging singer, whose commentaries remind one of the music of Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, and Joan Baez.



Pete Seeger compares notes with Hank Woji at a recent concert.

For over 15 years, as a bassist sideman, and later as a bandleader and then percussionist, Hank was a driving force in some of the Jersey Shore's most dynamic and innovative bands, sharing the stage, or performing, with such diverse artists as: The Drifters, Merl Saunders, Jimmy Cliff, The Wailers, The Smithereens, Toots & the Maytals, The Radiators, Jon Bon Jovi, Room Full of Blues, Clarence Clemmons, Bruce Springsteen, Johnny Johnson, Hot Tuna, The Nighthawks, John Hammond Jr., and Johnny Winter.

In the late 80s, he began studying African and Brazilian drumming and percussion, and by 1995 was also performing regularly, as a drummer/percussionist. In 2001, Hank moved from Manhattan to Houston, Texas, and began a new phase of his music career - Singer/Songwriter. Since then his compositions have garnered him honors in numerous national and international songwriting competitions.

His first CD as a songwriter, "*Medallion*," released in 2005, combined elements of folk, blues, R&B, and rock & roll with Brazilian, Cuban, African, and Indian rhythms. For his outstanding production work, he was nominated for the **2006 Producer of the Year award, by the Academy of Texas Music.**

Alternating between bluegrass, gospel, country, folk and good ol' rock & roll, he addresses many of the hot-button issues of our time. For both his songwriting work and his performance on "American Dreams" Hank was nominated for the **2009 Singer/Songwriter of the Year award by the Academy of Texas Music**

"Texas-based songwriter Hank Woji handles protest and social observation in the style of Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Bruce Springsteen, and John Prine...on 'American Dreams', Woji tackles big issues with the direct, thoroughly American sound created by those men ...he is a worthy voice in that cause." — **Chip Withrow, The Muse's Muse**

READ OR SEEN ANY GOOD PLAYS LATELY?

LBP is always looking for the best plays to entertain its audiences. Year after year, we read and review a variety of scripts - comedies, dramas and thrillers - to find just the right mix for the upcoming season. Suggestions are welcome! If you've seen a play you'd like to see on our stage, please share it with us. Call, write or email to LBP, Attn: Rosie Tremo.

CAROL AND JOHNNIE BRING VARIETY TO LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE



Carol and Johnnie have all the variety that anyone could ask: song, comedy, and even ventriloquism. They will be appearing at Lemon Bay Playhouse on Saturday, December 5, at 7:30 PM.

With both Carol and Johnnie, the key word is variety. They both sing solos, as well as harmonizing together on the golden oldies, performing a mix of pop standards, old time rock and roll, and classic country, all the big hits from the past. Carol also does some of Patsy Cline's greatest hits and some fancy yodeling. In addition, they do some impersonations (remember Edith and Archie Bunker?).

There is audience participation, a lot of comedy, and ventriloquism with Johnnie's old side kick, "Roger the Codger" (he's a retired eccentric). To close the show, they do a medley of patriotic songs.

Carol & Johnnie perform in Florida from November until April. The rest of the year they reside in Cincinnati, Ohio, playing at fairs and festivals. For many years, they performed with a six piece band, one of the top groups in southern Ohio.

In Florida, they play up and down the west coast at many different venues. They have performed for ten straight years at the Cultural Center in Port Charlotte and at the Charlotte County Fair for six straight years. They both feel that Florida's snowbirds are the best audiences ever. They're in Florida to have fun!

In the past, they have appeared on the TNN television network in Nashville. Carol has recorded at Music Mill Studio, one of Nashville's top recording studios. Carol has sung our national anthem at spring training baseball games in Florida and for the Cincinnati Reds in Ohio.

Carol and Johnnie have a fun-filled show that's guaranteed to entertain.

LBP LAUNCHES 2010 WITH SOUTHERN COMFORTS



Rita Corn

Lemon Bay Playhouse will present our fourth show of the current season from January 6 - 24. The play, *Southern Comforts*, by award winning playwright Kathleen Clark, features **Rita Corn** as a petite, perky, widowed church volunteer visiting from Tennessee. **Ron Bupp**



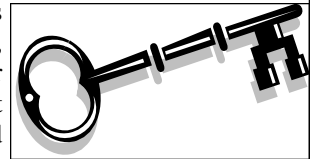
Ron Bupp

portrays a tough New Jersey widowed stone mason who suffered through a long, lonely marriage. Although both in their 70s, together they discover a second chance at love. Their funny, awkward romance is filled with sweet surprise and unpredictable tribulation.

The play was an off-broadway success and was recently on tour with Hal Holbrook and Dixie Carter. On our stage, the play will be directed by Ralph Barnes, who has successfully directed for the Playhouse in the past.

CALLING ALL KEY PEOPLE

Because of the huge number of keys floating around out there in the ether, the lock on the side door to the theater has been changed. If you have not been given a new key and you need access to the theater outside of the box office hours, please contact either Ann Hanushek or Bob La Salle.



VOLUNTEER THANK YOU PARTY

Our volunteer party this season will be held on **February 6, 2010** at 4:30 PM at Tringalli Center in Englewood. This is earlier than we have presented our get together in the past because we thought that February would find more of our "Snow Bird" volunteers still in the area. We will have entertainment, along with good food and good fun. Come and enjoy visiting with your friends. This is our way of saying thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. So, sign up early by stopping by the Box Office, 10AM to 2PM weekdays, or call them at 941-475-6756.

DIVA AND THE ITALIAN GUY ENCORE!



Diva and the Italian Guy, are making their third appearance at Lemon Bay Playhouse on Friday, December 11, and Saturday, December 12, at 7:30 PM, and Sunday, December 13, at 2:00 PM. Their previous visits have sold out well in advance, so book your tickets now at the box office or on our website.

Marcy Downey and **Buddy Sebastian** 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. A bit of seasonal fare will also be featured. If you haven't yet heard Marcy's incredible singing voice, this is your chance. Buddy's Italian-American background is an endless source of hilarious stories and fractured versions of songs!

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!



96 W. Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223



Celebrating our 23rd Season!
2009-2010 SEASON



MURDER BY MISADVENTURE by Edward Taylor
CHEATING CHEATERS by John Patrick
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

"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."