



APRIL-MAY 2010

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jim Hanushek

Have you seen the new coat that the Playhouse is wearing? Our volunteer, Randy Deitsch, has been working his way around the building, starting with the front. I think we look more like a cheery theater now, rather than a bank or funeral home, the former businesses conducted in our building. Most reviews have been extremely positive, with the best one saying it "is bright, cheerful, and makes you feel happy!" For those of who don't care for the colors, you can blame Ann Hanushek for the yellow and

me for the choice of green!

For those of you who are members, please mark April 8 on your calendar. You should have received your ballot and an invitation to the Annual Meeting. It's going to be held at the Rotonda Golf & Country Club. Sue Finucan is helping choose a menu of hors d'oeuvres (I had to look up that spelling!) for you, and there will be a cash bar. You'll receive a copy of our Annual Report for the past fiscal year, and our Readers Theater has a special treat planned for us. We'll be starting things off at 5:30 PM that day. If you're not a member, it's not too late to show your support and become a member of Lemon Bay Playhouse. You can enroll online at lemonbay-playhouse.com. If you prefer, you can find a form on the website, or obtain one from the box office. If you're already a member, renew now to extend your membership another year.

This is going to be a busy month at Lemon Bay Playhouse. We've become a haven for jazz enthusiasts in the Englewood area, and they won't be disappointed with what's coming up. We've got instrumental and vocal performers, a blues band, and, believe it or not, an 18-piece big band ready to appear on our stage. Read more about them in this newsletter, and be sure to book those tickets now while they're still available.

We need a little help from those of you who leave our fair area during the summers. Many of you attend small theaters in your northern locations. If you see a play or a performer that you REALLY enjoy and think might go well at LBP, please send us a note or an email. If you happen to see a production in a larger theater and you think it would do well if only we had a bigger theater, please share that with us, too. There may come a day when we have more room and flexibility in the plays that we can produce.

OUR NEW PRODUCTION MANAGER



Maggie Deitsch

Maggie Deitsch is a native Gulf Coast Floridian who was robbed of her heritage when her family moved to upstate New York when she was two years old. She has now come full circle after living 30 yrs in Ohio, followed by St. Augustine, FL, Odum, GA and most recently, Anderson, SC.

Her theatre experience spans fifteen years. She has stage-managed and/or assistant directed numerous shows including high-tech ones such as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Dracula*, and *Sugar Bean Sisters*. Prior to LBP, her "second homes" have been the 252-seat *The Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County* in Ohio and the 120-seat black box theatre *Electric City Playhouse* in South Carolina. Along with her husband Randy, she oversaw the development of their youngest son's magical pursuits at various venues throughout Ohio as he grew up to become a professional magician. While at ECP, she was also the Theatre Operations Manager (but they called her T.O.M.), responsible for overseeing all aspects of the theatre, including the office.

Maggie is looking forward to the Lemon Bay experience. "I am excited to be such an active part of Lemon Bay Playhouse! The people we've met have all been so friendly and welcoming. You have a wonderful base of volunteers to depend on, and that can make or break a theatre. Volunteers are the heart of any community theatre."

Randy will also often be seen at the playhouse, although he prefers to stay in the background as a volunteer doing building maintenance, stage crew, or lighting & sound. "He's my best friend, and I intend to use him as often as he'll let me take him away from the golf course."

Maggie and Randy have three sons and six grandchildren (including new twins) and are permanent residents in South Venice with their Golden Retriever, Jake.

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 8, 5:30 pm

Rotonda Golf & Country Club

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETINGS HELD AT THE PLAYHOUSE

UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED!

MELANIE MASSELL SINGS JAZZ IN THE AFTERNOON



Melanie Massell

Lemon Bay Playhouse is bringing Melanie Massell to Englewood on Sunday, April 11, at 2:00 PM. A seasoned, professional vocalist with a broad range and unique interpretive style, Melanie Massell will touch your heart with her renderings of jazz standards, bluesy ballads, and torch songs.

An Atlanta native, Melanie Massell has been performing professionally and charming audiences since childhood. After majoring in theater and performing arts, her career began with acting in bit film parts, expanding to television and radio commercials and then to national and international singing performances.

Melanie has consistently delighted crowds at clubs, weddings, special events, festivals, and premier hotel venues throughout the Southeast with her vocals and charisma.

"Songs performed the way they're supposed to be sung...Melanie's show is two thumbs up" says Tom Houck of Creative Loafing. To hear for yourself and find more information on Melanie, please visit www.mmmusic.net.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS



Randy Deitsch

Who's that new guy painting the playhouse? Meet Randy Deitsch, our new volunteer in charge of the building. A native of Crestline, Ohio, Randy is a self-proclaimed sports nut. He started playing pool at age 11 in a 4-table pool hall. The owner of the hall encouraged his interest and talent and trained him in the sport. Starting with cleaning the table properly to prepare it for play, Randy gradually worked his way up to winning games at the top table. He spent the next 8 years playing in tournaments or hustling at pool tables.

After a stint in the Navy, Randy found the job he'd love for many years. A third generation railroad man, he worked for Conrail/Norfolk Southern RR as a freight car repairman and inspector. If it was on a freight car, he could fix it! Before he retired, he started taking pictures of graffiti on freight cars. His wife, Maggie, would mount the pictures, and Randy started writing a book about his railroad memories and the stories of his father and grandfather working on the railroad. Randy's dad claimed it was the best Christmas gift he ever got.

After retirement in 2003, Randy and Maggie relocated to St. Augustine, then Odum, Georgia and Anderson, South Carolina.

Maggie had been very involved in community theater in Ohio, and Randy had also helped out. As they moved from place to place, both would volunteer at local theaters. Randy was named Volunteer of the Year for 2008 at the Electric City Playhouse in Anderson.

After settling in Venice, they investigated local theaters, and the homey atmosphere and enthusiastic volunteers at LBP attracted them to volunteer here.

Randy is now dividing his time between golf and the theater. He's enthusiastic about making the playhouse look good inside and out. He feels that the membership should be rewarded with a clean, attractive, welcoming building.

Welcome, Randy and Maggie! We're glad that you chose LBP!

TOMMY GOODMAN JAZZ TRIO



Tommy Goodman

As part of its role in bringing fine jazz to Englewood, Lemon Bay Playhouse is featuring the **Tommy Goodman Trio** on Saturday, March 27, at 7:30 PM. The band includes Tommy Goodman on piano, Billy Pillucere on bass, and Johnny Moore on drums.

Tommy Goodman brings to his jazz playing a highly eclectic background. After intensive studies in both jazz and classical fields, he composed, arranged, and conducted prizewinning recordings, television scores, and commercials. He has worked with such well-known artists as Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Louis Bellson, Lena Horne, and Sammy Davis Jr. among others.

Billy Pillucere is one of the outstanding bass players in the Tampa/Sarasota area. He recently appeared at Lemon Bay Playhouse backing both Cynthia Sayer and Diane Linscott. He worked many years with the great Manfredo Fest. For many years, he's headed a trio at The Vinoy in St. Petersburg, and at the same time was first call for gigs and concerts statewide as well as jazz festivals throughout the country. Creative with a unique sound, he always connects with the audience. He is a unique bass player in that he tunes his bass in 5ths, more like a cello, CGDA. He plays a vintage upright bass made in 1875 in Mittenwald, Germany.

Johnny Moore began his musical career in Kansas over 40 years ago. Living there, he performed with many bands, such as The Gaslight Gang, which toured extensively. Moving to Florida in 1984, he has worked with John LaPorta, Jack Brokensha, and many others. He free-lances and plays with Yesterdayze, a 60s band.

ENCHANTED APRIL

by Matthew Barber



Seated: l-r, Michelle Neitzel, Maureen Young, Ann Hanushek, Lee Lawler. Standing: l-r, Robin Mazey, Paul Mullen, Stephen Horowitz, Kathleen Amelia.

Running from April 28 thru May 16, *Enchanted April* tells the story of four dissimilar women in post-war England who leave their damp and rainy environs to go on a holiday to a secluded coastal villa in Italy. Two women, who belong to the same ladies' club, but have never spoken, become acquainted after reading an ad for villas for rent in the *Times*. They find two other ladies to help share expenses.

What happens when those four women, strangers to one another, decide to escape the weary gloom of London for the wisteria blooms of Tuscany for the month of April? Will they discover more than a change in climate? And how will their discovery affect those around them? For an "enchanted" evening be sure to see *Enchanted April* opening April 28th at the Lemon Bay Playhouse.

LaStanza Ristorante is sponsoring the play and offering to our playgoers a 10% discount on their total bill if they choose to have dinner before the play. Make sure you make reservations and tell them you're going to the theater so you can finish in time. You must have your theater tickets or the e-mail from the Playhouse with you.

BIG BAND SOUND AT LBP



George Carroll

Get tickets for Sunday, April 18, at 2:00 PM for something we've never before done at Lemon Bay Playhouse! The George Carroll Big Band jazz sound will be here with an 18-piece jazz band featuring top-shelf musicians from the Tampa Bay area. George both leads and sings with the band as they perform the "American Songbook".

George Carroll, a Sarasota FL icon, is at the center of jazz in his adopted hometown. He is a survivor in a vortex marked by failing clubs, uncaring moneychangers and a musically uneducated, often indifferent public. Yet George W. Carroll, a composer, vocalist, and big band leader for more than 40 years in his native Boston and Sarasota, has experienced recent success on the national stage with well-received performances in New York and Boston. "I have no delusions about big-time engagements or the music business itself," Carroll said between sets at the Meadows Village Pub, a Sarasota club where he played to packed houses with his quartet and big band for all of 2009. "It's a tough racket, believe me. But sometimes I'm in awe of what I've accomplished, particularly during an era when clubs are closing right and left."

His music, both as a composer and performer, has its roots in the big band era, not necessarily the Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Dorsey Brothers style. His hard-driving, straight-ahead arrangements recall the post-bop era of the sixties and reflect the style of mainstream giants such as Thad Jones, Mel Lewis, Woody Herman and Stan Kenton. Audiences from the West Coast of Florida, where his 17-piece aggregation performs more than 20 times each year, to the Northeast summer jazz festival circuit respond with enthusiasm. "We have a database following of nearly 1,200 fans who show up at our appearances (at clubs, dances, fundraisers and concerts) and that's very gratifying," Carroll said. "Florida seems to have a musical energy. There is a built-in appreciation for this type of music. "And, it's not just the over-50 crowd. Our audiences get younger every year. I want to keep the music going, wherever it takes me. My wife, Mary, taught me a valuable lesson: just let things happen. Don't over-analyze or over-manage. Just back off and let it happen."

Just let it happen to you in April!

SHORTS ALOUD

The Readers Theater is presenting the first "Short Play Festival" at Lemon Bay Playhouse on Saturday, April 3 at 7:30 PM. Our patrons will see a series of selected plays that will include comedy, drama, and suspense done in a readers theater format. The short play venue is exciting audiences across the country as playwrights are defining characters and plots in concise language and action. We are confident you will ask for more once this evening is over. Tickets are just \$5, but there was only 1 left at the time of printing.



FRANNIE NICHOLS BLUES BAND



Photo by Marc Clery/Cool Sands Photography

For a different kind of jazz and blues, we're bringing to our stage Frannie Nichols and the Sugar Rocket Band on Sunday, April 25, at 2:00 PM. Younger musicians have a taste for jazz, too, and this is your opportunity to hear their unique sound.

Frannie Nichols has been playing in bands since the age of 14. Originally from

Long Island, New York, her main influences were The Doors, The Allman Brothers, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Aretha Franklin, and Lee Michaels. She is self-taught on the keys and later got into singing lead vocals and discovered heavy metal bands such as Judas Priest and Led Zeppelin. She toured with an all-female original heavy metal band from Brooklyn, New York.

After some time of exploring different realms and styles of music and for a while completely giving up music, Frannie went back to her blues roots and worked as a keyboard player for James Peterson. She toured with his all-girl blues band, playing such places as Orlando House of Blues, Tobacco Road, City Jazz Club, and various blues festivals. Now with the Sugar Rocket Band, she plays keys and sings lead, bringing her style of blues to the West Coast of Florida. You can hear samples of their blues on their MySpace page: <http://www.myspace.com/thesugarrockets>.

Greg Doran, a Florida native, was raised on a diet of The Rolling Stones and The Beatles. His main influences have been early British blues, The Doors, Hendrix, and The Allman Brothers. Greg was the lead vocalist for various heavy metal bands from Florida to Detroit throughout the 1980s and 1990s. He eventually became the front man for the Florida based punk rock group Car Bomb Driver. In the Sugar Rockets, Greg shares lead vocals, plays bass, rhythm guitar, and harmonica.

Pat Flathman is the drummer for the Sugar Rocket Band. Pat and Greg Doran go way back into the 1980s as former band mates in St. Petersburg, Florida. Pat hit the Seattle Grunge Scene in the 1990s playing with a band called The Cuckoos, now known as The Mathematics, while he was also employed by a very famous dead rock star's wife in Seattle. Later, Pat joined up with Frannie and Greg back in St. Pete, playing in a band called The New World Cowboys and has now rejoined them here in Sarasota County.

Scott Angley-Scott was in the band Love Among Freaks that scored Kevin Smith's original movie, "Clerks", in 1994. He plays lead guitar in Sugar Rocket and is also a luthier.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for all performances at Lemon Bay Playhouse are \$16 each, unless otherwise noted. Students can see our full plays for just \$11 each, with student ID. Tickets are available online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com and at the Lemon Bay Playhouse Box Office, 96 W. Dearborn Street, Englewood, phone (941) 475-6756. The box office is open from 10 AM to 2 PM weekdays.



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

Layout/Photography: Rob Davis **Proofreader:** Ann Hanushek
Contributors: Maggie Deitsch, Jim Hanushek, Ann Hanushek
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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."