

Lemon Bay PLAYHOUSE

Englewood, Florida

SPOTLIGHT

OCTOBER 2008

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Jim Hanushek

This newsletter is mailed to members, volunteers, and season ticket holders, and others who have an interest in the status of Lemon Bay Playhouse. This letter is intended to update you on a few things.

One of the projects that has been on our books for a while is the renovation of our lobby. During the last play's run, you probably noticed that the walls were being painted. The next time you're in the theater, you should see new furniture in the lobby as well.

Thanks to a generous donation from Don and Janet Landis, you'll notice something different in the theater itself: the seats have been raised to make it easier to sit down and get back up.

Our online ticketing system is up and running. You can now go to our website, see everything that is on our calendar, order tickets, choose your seats, and print your own tickets right from the comfort of your own home. We do currently charge a \$1 processing fee for ALL transactions, including those done at the box office, to help defray to cost of the system.

Many people ask me about the progress on the new building. Yes, we are still on the road to a new building! The Board has commissioned Suncoast Architect, Inc., to construct a three-dimensional model of the proposed building. The proposed site is the Sarasota County property in the 300 block of Dearborn Street. In addition to leasing us the land, the County has approved a \$500,000 challenge grant since they see the potential for the development of Dearborn Street into a destination.

We are now at a point where the rubber meets the road. We know that the general public alone won't be able to provide the funds to make the building a reality. Our need now is one, two, or three angels who love Englewood and want to raise the cultural level of our community through the performing arts. The Board is actively looking for those angels now. Once we find those people who can help us with the bulk of the cost, we can move to the next step in the process.

In the meantime, we continue to expand our offerings in between our full productions. We are trying to develop the concept of Lemon Bay Playhouse as a performing arts center to make the transition to a new building smoother. If you have a suggestion for a weekend entertainment or performance, please let us know.



Lemon Bay Playhouse has a history, and we would certainly like it to have a future. Several years ago, to help ensure that future, the Board of Trustees established an endowment fund at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, thanks to the diligence of Barbara Rodvik-Manke.

What is an endowment fund anyway? It's an investment account in which the principal remains intact and the income from the fund can be used for operational expenses. As we move to a larger facility, our expenses will also become larger, so the income from an endowment fund can help us meet those expenses. Currently, we are allowing the interest to build the fund. In fact, we are contributing a portion of our net income from each production to the endowment fund.

The 50/50 sales last season provided enough to fund the next couple of years of our scholarship program. During this season, then, we are putting the income from the 50/50 into the endowment fund. That means that when you participate in the 50/50, you are helping to secure the future of Lemon Bay Playhouse!

If you'd like to add directly to our endowment fund, please use the enclosed envelope and write "Endowment Fund" or simply "EF" on your check. Your donation will be added to our endowment fund to help the longevity of Lemon Bay Playhouse.

See you at the theater,
Jim Hanushek

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, October 20, 2008
6:00 p.m.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Monday, November 24, 2008
7:00 p.m.

**ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PLAYHOUSE
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED!**

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS



Rita Corn

“Aren’t you the actress from Lemon Bay Playhouse?” Rita Corn delights in hearing such questions as she shops for groceries or attends local functions. The query shows that the questioner regards Rita as an ACTRESS, and doesn’t identify her as one of the many characters she has played.

How did this former head of a commercial banking credit investigating committee in Indianapolis wind up on LBP’s stage? Rita and her husband Richard raised three wonderful sons and then decided to take early retirement and head south. Richard was a well-known pianist and wanted to continue working after moving to sunny Florida. After several years of visiting different areas in Florida, they discovered Englewood. It was just what they wanted—a small community, close to the beach, and handy to the interstate for Richard to travel to his gigs. In 1988, the Corns became permanent Englewood residents.

Where does the acting come in? As a youngster, Rita had always enjoyed make believe and dressing up, but growing up and being a wife, mother, and working woman left no time to indulge in fantasy. Three years after moving to Englewood, Rita saw an ad for auditions at Lemon Bay Playhouse, a 45-seat little theater on Dearborn Street. This was her chance to see what she could do! She auditioned and was surprised and delighted when Lee Linkus chose her to play in *Tribute*. The fledgling actress’s knees shook, and her voice quivered as she entered from the side door to deliver her first lines. (The theater had no wings. The actors would exit one side, run around the building, sometimes in the rain, and come in the door at the other side.) She gained confidence and found that the audiences responded enthusiastically. There was no turning back. Rita was hooked.

Rita’s name was soon in the playbills of many LBP shows. Her first major role was in *Chapter Two*, a Neil Simon comedy. Since those early days, Rita has performed in over seventy plays at LBP, Charlotte Players, Players of Sarasota, Golden Apple in Venice, Golden Apple in Sarasota, and the Glenridge Dinner Theater in New York. Of all of the roles she has played, Rita’s two favorites are Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy* and Parthy in *Showboat*.

But wait! That’s not all. Rita has also worked backstage, been a stage manager, and directed three plays at LBP: *Send Me No Flowers*, *This Day and Age*, and *Blithe Spirit*. This season, she’ll direct the comedy, *Norman, Is That You?*.

Rita was also a valuable member of LBP’s Board of Trustees for ten years, served on the Play Reading Committee for over ten years, originated and worked in the Readers Theater, conducted acting classes for adults and children, helped beginning actors as a coach, and headed the first drive to get paid ads in our playbills. If you are lucky, you may attend a play on the night that Rita will be collecting tickets, distributing playbills, and serving punch and cookies during intermission in her role as house manager.

Little did Rita know, when she attended that first audition, how her life would change and how she would enrich the lives of so many others. Rita truly deserves a standing ovation for all she has done for Lemon Bay Playhouse. BRAVA! But, she’s not done yet—just keep watching that stage for her next appearance!



Dearborn Street Halloween Walk

October 31
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Costume judging
7:00 p.m.

THE PLAY’S THE THING TO GRACE OUR STAGE NEXT

LBP’s second play of the 2008-2009 season is the comedy, *The Play’s The Thing*, by Ferenc Molnar, adapted by P.G. Wodehouse, directed by Matt McCord. In this stylish play, two playwrights (Robin Mazey as Turai and Paul Mullen as Mansky) take their young composer (John Wyczlinski) on a surprise visit to his fiancé (Andrea Keddell-Heintz), the prima donna of their last play. Much to their horror, they get an unwelcome surprise when they overhear a romantic tryst between Ilona and an older actor, who had been her guide and mentor (Vince Delgato).

The young composer is devastated and vows to kill himself, while the composers try to calm him and get him to go to sleep. Mansky takes Albert off for a few hours rest. Turai, attempting to salvage the situation, stays up the rest of the night frantically writing a play that incorporates the bedroom scene, which the visitors overheard.

The next morning, Turai confronts Ilona and her lover, Almady, and explains his plans. A performance of the play is scheduled for that evening, and the fussy secretary (Brian Nichols) sets about staging the event.

The rehearsal is sure to entertain the audience, as Turai cleverly has Ilona and Almady repeat their lines from the previous night, but in an entirely different situation, as Albert watches the proceedings. The butler, Johann Dwornitschek (Israel Gonzalez), punctuates the play at various times with his witty remarks.

Don’t miss this one! *The Play’s The Thing* runs from October 29 to November 16. Call the box office to reserve your tickets now, 941-475-6756.



The cast of *The Play’s The Thing* includes: center, Andrea Keddell-Heintz, standing, left-right: Robin Mazey, Vince Delgato, Paul Mullen, Director, Matt McCord, Israel Gonzalez. Left insert: Brian Nichols. Right insert: John Wyczlinski.

THRILLS, CHILLS, MAGIC AND ILLUSIONS



Comedy Magician and Illusionist John Robert will present his latest show, the Haunted Halloween Magic Show, live at the Lemon Bay Playhouse in Englewood on Saturday, October 18th, at 7:30pm and again on Sunday,

October 19th, at 2:00pm. The show will feature some of John's favorite routines, plus a few brand new tricks chosen just for this show. "Besides sawing someone in half, we'll be attempting a few new dangerous tricks in this show" said Robert. "I hope to have all the dangerous tricks fully worked out prior to our stop at the Lemon Bay Playhouse... If not, we'll be in for a ghoulish night!"

The show is geared for those over the age of 6, including older siblings, teen siblings, parents, and grandparents.

Tickets for the Haunted Halloween Magic Show, at \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, are available online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com and at the box office between 10 AM and 2 PM weekdays.

With plenty of laughter... wonder... thrills... and chills... you'll have the time of your life - so come out and join us for John Robert's Haunted Halloween Magic Show... if you dare!!!

CHARLES LINDBERGH AT LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE



Returning by popular demand, **Steve Carroll** will bring the character of Charles Lindbergh to life on the Lemon Bay Playhouse stage. His performance is scheduled for Friday, October 10, at 7:30 PM, the evening before the Fly-In at Buchans Airport.

"The Lone Eagle" was just one of many nicknames given to Charles Lindbergh by the press after he became the first pilot to fly nonstop from New York to Paris in May of 1927. Steve Carroll, who wrote and performs

Charles Lindbergh: The Lone Eagle, feels it was an apt description of the man.

"Almost everything Lindbergh did, he did alone," Carroll said. "Whether it was flying the Atlantic, heading his son's kidnapping investigation, or making a stand against World War II, he always seemed to be taking on the world all by himself."

Reeve Lindbergh, president of the Lindbergh Foundation, wrote Carroll to express her thanks after a command performance of his play at the 75th anniversary of her father's famous Paris flight.

"I was indeed impressed by your performance, which I found moving and very thoughtful, with a fresh perspective on my father that contained much truth," Lindbergh wrote. "You did get something of my father that was very real, and it meant a lot to me ... It makes people think. Thank you!"

Carroll has toured his show around the country, from New York and New Jersey to Wisconsin, Missouri and Florida. According to one local reviewer, "The audience was mesmerized ... Carroll makes Lindbergh accessible at all levels, first as playwright of *Charles Lindbergh: The Lone Eagle* and second as the one and only actor on stage."

Tickets for *The Lone Eagle*, at \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, are available online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com and at the box office between 10 AM and 2 PM weekdays.

KALEIDOSCOPE OF THE ARTS

Mark October 17 on your calendar now! You don't want to miss "Kaleidoscope of the Arts" from 5 to 9:30 PM! Lemon Bay Playhouse, the Englewood Art Center, and the Arts Alliance of Lemon Bay, with support from the Englewood CRA, have joined together for this joyous celebration of the Arts. The event, to be held on the 300 and 400 blocks of Dearborn Street, will feature local artists demonstrating the arts of pottery, mosaics, jewelry making, and various other art media. Stage performances begin at 5:30 at Pioneer Park, the site of the future home of Lemon Bay Playhouse.



Left to right: Trish Kinghorn, Larry McGee, Lynn Means, Herb Levin, Jack Rabito.

On stage, you'll see and hear music, dance, comedy, and theater, including the winning play from our first annual one-act play writing contest, *Cinderella and the Footman*, by Maureen Martin. The play takes the traditional fairy tale and turns it around. As you might infer from the title, Cindy falls for the footman rather than the prince. Can a couple of mice untangle things and keep the story straight? You'll find the answer in this humorous look at an old story. Jack Rabito directs the cast of Lynn Means, Trish Kinghorn, Herb Levin, and Larry McGee.

There is no admission charge for this event. The intent of Kaleidoscope is to show the community the types of arts, both visual and performing, that are available to them in Englewood. Bring the whole family for an evening of fun!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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

"It is the Mission of Lemon Bay Playhouse to enrich the Greater Englewood community through theatrical productions, other cultural activities, challenging volunteer opportunities, and education and training in the performing arts."