

Charlotte Players *Your community theatre since 1961* **Spotlight** **News**

January 2018

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Sherrie M. Moody
 Executive Director



Charlotte Players has produced over 250 theatrical productions in Southwest Florida during the last six decades. Our organization's fundamental message and mission, through the years, has been to support, nurture and encourage the talents of people/artists (of all ages) in every expression of theater (acting, music, dance, and visual arts). We should all be proud of our theatrical accomplishments and the many goals we have achieved since 1961.

Your contributions (monetary, time and talents) continue to support this necessary work. We extend much gratitude to all of our donors and sponsors over the last year who helped make "what we do" possible. Please note in

this newsletter all of the wonderful upcoming productions and events we have scheduled for spring.

A fabulous new addition has been added to our schedule in recent weeks. The Irish Rovers will be coming to the North Port Performing Arts Center for us on Wednesday, March 14, 2018. Get your tickets early. This show should sell out quickly.

As we move through this new and exciting year of possibilities, what we know for sure is that we will remain true to our fundamental message and mission.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers and board members who have supported our mission to bringing quality theater arts and entertainment to our community.

Coming in March: The Irish Rovers

Charlotte Players is excited to present The Irish Rovers in March of 2018 at the North Port Performing Arts Center. This group of talented musicians have charmed and entertained audiences around the world for five decades. The Irish folk group was formed in 1963 and named after the traditional song “The Irish Rover.” They are best known for their international television series, contributing to the popularization of Irish Music in North America, and for their songs “The Unicorn,” “Drunken Sailor,” “Wasn’t That a Party,” “The Orange and the Green,” “Whiskey on a Sunday,” “Lily the Pink,” and “The Black Velvet Band.”

Here’s what the Belfast *Telegraph* newspaper says about them:

Throughout the years, these international ambassadors of Irish music have maintained their timeless ability to deliver a rollicking, rousing performance of good cheer — one that will soon have you singing and clapping along. Their songs have become anthems of revelry and joy among generation after generation of fans.

We are very fortunate to be able to bring the Rovers to you during their 2018 Unicorn Gold Anniversary Tour, which will be their last world tour. They have produced over 40 albums in North America and many more internationally. Their new album *The Irish Rovers, 50 Years* is being released at concerts during their 50th anniversary tour this year.

You do know want to miss this fantastic show set for Wednesday, March 14, 2018. For tickets, visit our website at www.charlotteplayers.org or call 941-255-1022.



Theater of the Mind Going on the Road



Do you know of a club or organization that would appreciate being entertained at meetings, social gatherings and other functions? Do you know any Language Arts or Theater techs who would like to bring literature alive in their classrooms? Charlotte Players *Theatre of the Mind* can help.

“Our group plans short readings from dramas, short stories, poetry, and classic literature for presentation,” said Director/Coordinator Jessie Reter-Choate. “We can tailor a program for you and your organization.”

Programs at the Langdon have proven very popular, featuring the works of James Thurber, William Shakespeare, Roald Dahl, Edgar Allen Poe, and even Woody Allen, just to name a few. Jessie and her talented group of readers/voice actors can design readers around any subject, event, or holiday.

If you or someone who know might be interested, call Jessie at 540-850-0762 or email her at jrchoate52@gmail.com.

If you’d like to join the group or just find out more about it, you can meet Jessie and her readers at their upcoming meetings at the Langdon Playhouse on Thursday, January 11, and Thursday, February 8, 2018. They get together at 10:00 a.m. and will be planning a spring show.

The Second Time Around

Langdon Playhouse — October 20-29, 2017



Posing on the set are Co-director **Paula Pender**, far left, and Stage Manager **Steve Pignataro**, far right. The male actors, standing from left, are **Kirk Roberts**, Co-director **Jerry Jones** and **Mike Moody**. On the couch are actresses, from left, **Wendi Scianna**, **Robin Jenkins** and **J. J. Juliano**.

Cynthia (**Wendi Scianna**) and Michael (**Mike Moody**) play "dueling offspring" instead of chess.



Laura (**Robin Jenkins**) can't seem to get through to Dr. Morse the anlyast (**Kirk Roberts**).



Over the River and Through the Woods

Langdon Playhouse — November 10-19, 2017



Posing on the set are (back row, left-right): director **Jennifer Depew**, actors **Mike Gilbert**, **James Holmes**, **David Watson**, stage manager **Ellen Rehaut**, and costumer **Korinne Hill**. Seated in front are actresses (left-right): **Barbara Holmes**, **Kathy Amelia** and **Anaya Maitland**.

Nick (**David Watson**) is comforted by his grandparents Nunzio and Emma (**James** and **Barbara Holmes**).



Flanking Nick (**David Watson**) and Caitlyn (**Anaya Maitland**) at the dinner table are grandparents Aida and Frank (**Kathy Amelia** and **Mike Gilbert**), left, and Nunzio and Emma (**James** and **Barbara Holmes**).



Comedy for a Cause — Another Huge Success

Postponed in September by Hurricane Irma, the fifth annual *Comedy for a Cause* fundraiser took place on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center. More than \$48,000 was raised for *Kids OnStage* and the Charlotte County Imagination Library.

The 2017 cast of eight local business and community leaders included:

- Alexia Martin, Whitco Insurance Agency, owner;
- Carrie Mallia-James; Coldwell Banker Sunstar;
- Denise Dull, Business Integrity Employee Leasing;
- Dennis Valentino, Donato's Italian Restaurant, Bocca Lupo Coal Fired Pizza, Prime Steak House, owner;
- Donna Barrett, Charlotte-DeSoto Building Industry Association;

- Jim Finch, Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center;
- Ken Lovejoy, iHeart Media; and
- Marcy Frisina, Fawcett Memorial Hospital, Chief Nursing Officer.

Donna Barrett, won the Sponsor Award for raising the most money through sponsorship. Dennis Valentino, who raised the most money through other means, won the People's Choice Award, and Ken Lovejoy won the Judges' Award.

Special thanks for our sponsors, including Donato's, Fawcett, Integrity Employee Leasing, Whitco and Cheney Brothers. And a big thank you to Charlotte County Commissioner Dr. Chris Constance for directing the show and Tyler Colfer for serving as DJ and stage manager.



Wendy Paul and Julie Cormier



Vickie Howard, Donna King and Paula Pinder



Sally Jones and Shawn Smith



The 2016 winners, **Dr. Jaideep Hingorani** and **Marianne Taylor**, emceed the big event this year.



The cast had some fun posing outside the venue.



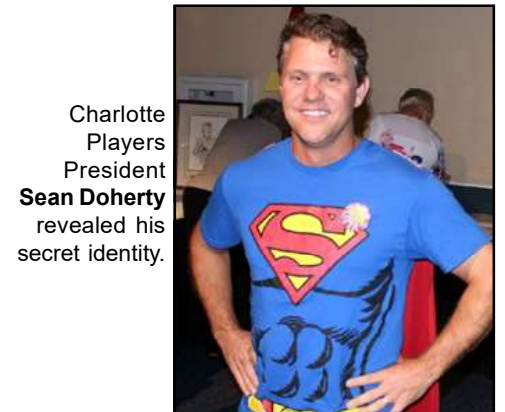
Donna Barrett and Betsy Williams



North Port City Commissioner **Jill Luke** helped out at the silent auction table.



Actress and Director **Jenni Elliott** and her husband **Rick**.



Charlotte Players President **Sean Doherty** revealed his secret identity.

The Play's the Thing at Third Annual *Madrigal Dinner*

Ushering in the holiday season, the third annual *Madrigal Dinner* was held this year for the first time in the new multi-purpose facility at First Alliance Church on Midway Boulevard in Port Charlotte. The medieval celebration of Christmas (an English boar's head feast) took place over on three nights with a cast of more than 75 actors, carolers, servers, and entertainers in Renaissance dress.

This year's performance was directed by Bill Olson, a Charlotte Players board member and the new drama teacher at Charlotte High School. He presented *Sleepless in the Castle*, a play about a pair of royal twins keeping the palace up all night, while also coordinating the entire show. Once again, we must thank all the volunteers who made this year's dinner another special event.



Master of the Hall **Jerry Jones** and his Lady **Pamela**.



The head table and others prepare to bid the exiting audience "Merry Christmas."



Rev. **Brent Sedgewick** and his wife served as the Lord Chaplain and his Lady.



Glen Nickerson and his wife, **Tracy Weikel**, served as Lord and Lady of the Manor House.



Court Jester **David Watson**, center, leads the cast and audience members in a trivia contest during *Sleepless in the Castle*.



Royal Juggler **Jeff Lovett** entertains.



Music Director **Angela Navarro** accompanies vocalist **Margaret Mael**.



A hard-working group of volunteers, the kitchen crew, kept the food coming — and cleaned up — every night.



The volunteer "serving wenches" brought out food, drink and table decorations — and helped clean up — every night.

Main Stage Productions

Cultural Center of Charlotte County

Evening Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. and Matinees are 2:00 p.m.

Noises Off

January 19-27, 2018



Our cast in rehearsal (left-right): **Jenni Elliott**, **Shawn Genther** and **Jordan Foster**.

Called the funniest farce ever written, *Noises Off* presents a manic menagerie as a cast of itinerant actors rehearsing a flop called *Nothing's On*. Doors slamming, on and offstage intrigue, and an errant herring all figure in the plot of this hilarious and classically comic play. Directed by Gary Obeldobel.

Monty Python's Spamalat

February 9-18, 2018



Music Director **Summer McDavitt** (second from the back on the right) leads works with the *Spamalot* cast at the Langdon rehearsal hall.

Written and originally performed by the cast of *Monty Python*, the musical *Spamalot* centers around King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. When he and his band of misfit knights finally gather in Camelot, they receive a charge from God to find the Holy Grail. The quest brings the group to strange places and into the company of strange characters, challenging them to keep their heads on straight or die terribly weird deaths. "It's not your average musical," says Director Ian Bisset.



The Game's Afoot

March 22-25, 2018

It is December 1936 and Broadway star William Gillette, admired for his leading role in the play *Sherlock Holmes*, has invited his fellow cast-members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. But when one of the guests is stabbed to death, it's up to Gillette, assuming the persona of Holmes, to track down the killer before the next victim appears. The danger and hilarity are non-stop in this glittering whodunit set during the Christmas holidays. Directed by Jessie Reter-Choate.

Auditions: January 21 and 22, 2018



Langdon Playhouse

Evening Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. and Matinees are 2:00 p.m.

Breaking Legs

January 5-14, 2018

The comedy setting is an Italian restaurant owned by a successful mobster and managed by his beautiful, unmarried daughter. Her former college professor arrives to ask for financial backing for a play he has written about a murder. The three main Mafiosi are intrigued with producing the play. When the author learns that his backers are gangsters, all hell breaks loose. "In this madcap situation, murder and menace are served up with plenty of pasta and laughter," says Director Ken Crisp.



Cast and crew in rehearsal for *Breaking Legs*, from left: Actor **Steven Pignataro**, Stage Manager and Prop Mistress **Jeanne DeYoung**, Actor **Jim Manns**, Director **Ken Crisp**, Backstage Assistant **Michelle Long**, Actor **Rich Long**, and Actress **Sandi Wood**. (Not pictured are Actors Robert Brandal and Rich Schmith and Backstage Assistant **Meegan DeYoung**.)



Chick Soup

February 1-11, 2018

An inspiring and touching musical about four women who meet in an OB/GYN waiting room and become friends. The songs, touching on the shared elements of women's lives, include "Shoes," "She's Having a Baby," "Hand Pick You Man" and the title song, "Chick Soup." Directed by Will Horton.

Alone Together

March 1-11, 2018

Middle-aged couple Helene and George are beginning to enjoy their empty nest. They are alone together, but not for long. All three of their sons charge back home after experiencing some hard knocks in the real world and Mom and Dad have quite a time pushing them out again. Directed by Paula Pender.

Auditions: January 7 and 8, 2018

Wally's Café

April 6-15, 2018

A three-character play about Wally, a man who buys a cafe on the wrong side of the road that goes to Las Vegas. Wally, his wife, and their one waitress watch the years go by and see all of Wally's hopes and dreams bite the dust. Nevertheless, there is a happy ending to this gag-filled comedy that spans four decades. Directed by Jack Rabito.

Auditions: February 18 and 19, 2018



Scene from the three-character play *Wally's Café* as presented by the Colorado Stage Company.

Special Events

Cultural Center of Charlotte County
Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

Divas in a Man's World

January 24, 2018

A star-studded concert spectacular featuring Steven Andrade as Cher and the hilarious Gary Dee as your host and Joan Rivers impersonator. This Vegas style production features fabulous dancers and over 20 dazzling costume changes. This is your chance to see two legendary superstar Divas performing your favorite hits from the '60s to today.



The Edwards Twins

February 13-14, 2018

Back by popular demand, the Edward Twins return for two nights, with their uncanny impersonations of Barbara Streisand, Cher, Bette Midler, Neil Diamond, Billy Joel, Elton John, Rod Stewart, Tom Jones, Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles, Engelbert Humperdinck and more. As *People* magazine noted: "They bring such love and attention to recreating celebrities, that in many ways they are better than watching the real thing." Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy them again or see them for the first time.



The Edwards Twins surrounded by some of the famous entertainers they impersonate.

Late Night Catechism Las Vegas: Sister Rolls the Dice

February 22, 2018

The convent needs a new roof, so the order has decided that Sister (with her extensive gambling experience running the church bingo for the last 25 years) will organize a Las Vegas night. The irrepressible Kimberly Richards returns as Sister to tackle the topics ranging from show girls and live animal acts to the dangers of drive-through marriage chapels. And don't forget — what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, but God sees everything!



Please visit www.CharlottePlayers.org
for Membership Details

• **Individual Membership: \$25⁰⁰ Annually**

• **Family Membership: \$35⁰⁰ Annually**
(Includes all individuals living in the same household)

Business Membership: \$75⁰⁰ Annually
(Includes up to 4 members)

Primary Member Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Code _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

email address _____

Sponsor Member Name _____

Credit Card # _____ CVV # _____ Expiration Date _____

Additional Members (if applicable):

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Charlotte Players reserves the right to modify, in writing, membership dues and benefits upon members annual renewal.

Please make your check payable to: Charlotte Players, Inc.

Mailing address:

Charlotte Players, Inc. • P.O. Box 494088 • Port Charlotte, FL 33949-4088

Business Office location:

1182 Market Circle • Port Charlotte, FL 33953-3820

Telephone: 941-255-1022 • **Fax:** 941-743-7297

Please visit www.CharlottePlayers.org for Show Information, Events and Volunteer Opportunities

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	\$ _____	_____	_____

Charlotte Players, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution may be tax-deductible.

07/2017

Charlotte Player Chairpersons and Coordinators

Volunteer Coordinator *Position vacant at this time. If you have an interest please contact Sherrie.*

Ushers Coordinator—

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Madrigal Dinner Director Bill Olsen 954-303-3115 weolsen2@gmail.com

2017-18 Charlotte Players Board of Directors Officers

President ... Sean Doherty
 Vice President ... Jerry Jones
 Secretary ... Mary Crawford
 Treasurer ... Dan Mearns
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Directors

Liz Andresen • Marie Brown • Jenni Elliott • Dave Habershaw
 Vickie Howard • Judy (JJ) Juliano • Sharon MacLaren • Bill Olson
 Bob Overcash • Kirk Roberts • Glenn Wright

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CHARLOTTE PLAYERS
1182 Market Circle • Port Charlotte, FL 33953-3820

Charlotte Players — a volunteer-based organization — shall provide and promote quality theater arts programs to educate, entertain and enrich the Southwest Florida Community.