

CHARLOTTE
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Spotlight
News

Fall 2018

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Sherrie M. Moody
 Executive Director



While Robert Burns may have been correct in noting that “The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men Gang aft a-gley,” it’s nice when your plans don’t go awry, or “a-gley.” The point is our decision to expand the Langdon Playhouse — in terms of seating capacity and the number of shows presented — has been successful so far.

Through the efforts of our scenic designer and all-around handyman Chris Smith and other volunteers, we increased seating in the theater to a capacity of nearly 100 and raised the stage so everyone has a great view. And audiences have seen some terrific shows.

Our seasonal debut, Agatha Christie’s *The Mousetrap*, sold out six of the seven shows. *David and Friends*, a concert featuring some of our area’s best singers, was also sold out.

Audiences have noticed gold plaques on the backs of some seats, the plaques bearing the names of Charlotte Players supporters. This is thanks to board member Jenni Elliott’s “Take a Seat Campaign,” a fundraiser I’m hoping each of you becomes a part of. To find out how, see page 3.

Other ways you can support us financially — aside from buying tickets, of course — include advertising in the Playbill or joining the Producers Circle. Individuals and businesses can participate alike. Ads are reasonably priced, ranging in size from an eighth of a page to a full page, and single-issue insertions are also available.

Producer’s Circle members pick a show they’d like to sponsor and their level of commitment: Executive Producer, Co-Producer and Associate Producer. Producers are recognized in the Playbill and on stage.

Last but not least, you can become a “Partner for the Future” by making a bequest to the Charlotte Players in your will. Making a bequest is one way to ensure the continuation of your commitment to artistic endeavors in our community. You can also make a legacy gift through a will, trust, life-insurance policy, or other means.

For additional information on any these programs, visit our website at www.charlotteplayers.org, call our business office at 941-255-1022, or email info@charlotteplayers.org.

As always, thank you for your continued support, and enjoy the show!

Theatre of the Mind Returns November 20, 2018

Sit back, close your eyes, and let the *Theatre of the Mind* cast convey the setting, props, and costumes of a full theatrical experience in their words. Director Jesse Reter-Choate is preparing her cast to present two classic readings she says audiences will love.

The evening begins at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at the Langdon Playhouse. First up is a performance of *Sorry, Wrong Number*, Lucille Fletcher's classic 1943 radio-play Orson Welles called "the greatest single radio script ever written."

"The play is a true example of the early mystery dramas of the 1940s," Jessie said.



The second piece for the evening is a collection of the poetic works of award winner Edgar Lee Masters from his *Spoon River Anthology*, a collection of short free-verse poems that was performed on Broadway in 1963.

"The audience is introduced in a cemetery to the ghosts of those who were once a part of the fictional town of Spoon River and whose secrets have gone with them to the grave," Jessie said.

"The audience will meet 27 of the Spoon River folks who share their sometimes humorous, sometimes serious, sides of life."

Comedy for a Cause VI Continues a Successful Trend



Cherie George holds her award for Best Overall Fundraiser at the 2018 *Comedy for a Cause*, presented by event founder and organizer **Marie LaBrosse** (in hat) and Master of Ceremonies **Chris Constance**, on George's left. Also participating in the award ceremony are, from left, Charlotte Players President **Sean Doherty**, Vice President **Jerry Jones** and Executive Director **Sherrie Moody**.

Under the guidance of Director Chris Constance, a strong cast of local business and community leaders entertained a huge crowd at the sixth annual *Comedy for a Cause* fundraiser on September 14, 2018 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. Proceeds from the Players' biggest fundraiser benefitted our many programs, including the Charlotte County Imagination Library and *Kids OnStage*.

Performers who participated in the evening of improvisational comedy included Judges' and Sponsors' Award winner Jared Forma, general manager of the Stone Crabs, People's Choice Award winner Sherri Dennis, editor of the Punta Gorda Herald, and Cherie George, customer relations director for the Gettel Automotive Group, who was Best Overall Fundraiser.



Sherri Dennis, holding her People's Choice Award, with **Chris Constance** and **Sean Doherty**.

Bidding David Watson Adieu

Actor and vocalist David Watson headlined *David & Friends Sing Your Broadway Favorites* at the Langdon Playhouse on September 21, 2018. The show marked the “farewell concert” for Watson, a popular Charlotte Players performer for many years who left for Navy boot camp on October 4.

David’s sister, Melissa, provided an address for anyone wishing to write the new “Seaman Recruit.”

“I know he would love to hear from each of you,” Melissa said.

SR Watson, David
 Ship 07 USS Chicago, Division 36
 3405 Sailor Drive
 Great Lakes, IL 60088-3401



David Watson on stage during *David & Friends*.



Daulton Lunsford



Dawn Carpenter



Melissa Cripps



Rachel Dalangauskas



Randy Mennella

“Take-A-Seat” at the Langdon



Twenty-eight people so far have taken advantage of our fledging “Take-a-Seat” campaign and received an engraved plaque on a seat in the Langdon Playhouse theater.

“The plaque can be engraved with your name, your business, a name in memory of a loved one or whatever you wish,” said Board member Jenni Elliott.

You can participate for a donation of \$100 per year over a 3-year period. You may pay the entire \$300 at one time or in \$100 installments over three years. Placement of the plaques will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and does not guarantee that named seats will be available for ticketed performances. For more information, call the office at 941-255-1022.

Main Stage Production

Charlotte Performing Arts Center • 701 Carmalita Street • Punta Gorda, FL
Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Evenings and 2:00 p.m. Sundays

Singin' in the Rain

February 15-24, 2019

Auditions: December 2 and 3, 2018

Artistic Director: Paula Pender

Co-Director: Bill Olson

The “Greatest Movie Musical of All Time,” faithfully and lovingly adapted into a theatrical show, includes each unforgettable scene, song and dance, including the show-stopping title number. Hilarious situations, snappy dialogue and a hit-parade score of Hollywood standards make *Singin' in the Rain* the perfect entertainment.



Teenager **Debbie Reynolds** keeping up with costars **Donald O'Connell** and **Gene Kelly** in the film version of *Singin' in the Rain*.

Langdon Playhouse

Charlotte Players Community Theater Center • 1182 Market Circle, Murdock, FL
Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Evenings and 2:00 p.m. Sundays

Arsenic and Old Lace

November 8-18, 2018

Director: Ian Bisset

A classic in American theater, this farcical black comedy revolves around the Brewster family. The family includes two spinster, sister aunts, who like to murder lonely old men who rent rooms from them and their two grown nephews Mortimer and Teddy. Mortimer is a successful, newly-wed writer and Teddy, who still resides in the house, a delusional sibling who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt. The *New York Times* said the play was “so funny that none of us will ever forget it.”



The 1944 film version of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, directed by Frank Capra, starred **Cary Grant**, third from right, as Mortimer Brewster with, from left, **Raymond Massey** as Jonathan, **Josephine Hull** as Abby Brewster, **Priscilla Lane** as Elaine Harper and **Jean Adair** as Martha Brewster.

The Ladies Foursome

January 5-20, 2019

Auditions: November 4 and 5, 2018

Director: Jenny Depew

The day after their friend Catherine's funeral, Margot, Tate and Connie gather for a round of golf in honor of their recently departed fourth. They are joined by another woman, an old friend of Catherine's they've never met. Over the course of 18 holes, the women discuss love, sex, children and share their secrets and confessions in this fast-paced, funny and heartwarming story of friendship.



Right Bed, Wrong Husband

February 1-17, 2019

Auditions: December 2 and 3, 2018

Director: Jerry Jones

In order to have his allowance increased, young bachelor Ted has written his pinchpenny uncle that he is married, though in fact he is only engaged. One day, the uncle drops in unexpectedly, and Ted is drawn into the vortex of an intrigue initiated entirely by the uncle when he mistakes a pretty girl, married to Ted's best friend, as Ted's wife.



Steel Magnolias

March 8-24, 2019

Auditions: December 2 and 3, 2018

Director: Gary Seddon

This multiple award-winning classic, set in a beauty salon in Chinquapin, LA, features wise-cracking salon owner Truvy, her eager new assistant Annelle, the town's rich curmudgeon, Ouiser, eccentric millionaire Clairee, local social leader M'Lynn and her daughter Shelby. Filled with hilarious repartee, the play is truly touching, as the women and their friends encounter tragedy and good fortune, growing stronger and closer in the process.



Julia Roberts, left, and **Dolly Parton** in the movie version of *Steel Magnolias*.

Sex Please, We're 60

April 11-28, 2019

Auditions: February 10 and 11, 2019

Director: Jessie Reter-Choate



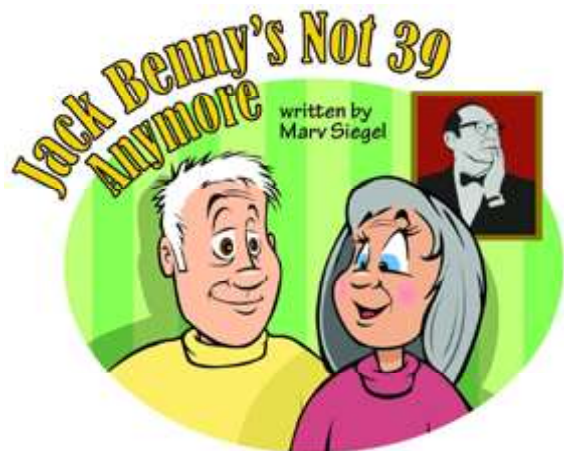
Mrs. Stancliffes Rose Cottage Bed & Breakfast has been successful for many years. Her guests (nearly all women) return year after year. Her next door neighbor, the elderly, silver-tongued, Bud "Bud the Stud" Davis believes they come to spend time with him in romantic liaisons, which the prim and proper Mrs. Stancliffe steadfastly denies. Her other neighbor and would-be suitor, Henry Mitchell, is a retired chemist who has developed a blue pill called "Venusia" to increase the libido of menopausal women. When the untested pill is mixed up with Bud's Viagra, strange things happen.

Jack Benny's Not 39 Anymore

May 17-25, 2019

Auditions: March 17 and 18, 2018

Director: Jenni Elliott



Like Jack Benny, Norman is as young as he feels. Suffering from retirement remorse, he hatches business schemes to fill idle hours. Edna, his loving wife, is delighted that her new neighbor Rosemary has a son who may be a match for their daughter. When widowed Rosemary recognizes Norman and reminds him of their youthful, romantic past, Edna is threatened and works to keep their offspring apart, hoping it will also keep Norman and Rosemary apart.

Special Events

Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

Fourth Annual Madrigal Dinner

November 29-December 1, 2018

First Alliance Church • 20444 Midway Blvd., Port Charlotte

Join us for a Medieval Celebration of Christmas with singing, dancing and musical productions by a cast of over 75 talented actors, carolers, dancers, gymnasts and jugglers. Enjoy a Wassail reception with warm spiced cider, then a formal call to dinner where an amazing feast will be jubilantly paraded into the great dining hall. The evening will be filled with ceremonious holiday pomp and tradition.



Glen Nickerson, publisher of the *Sun* Newspapers and his wife **Tracey**, serving as Lord and Lady of the Manor on last year's final night.



Lords and ladies prepare to bid the guests adieu at last year's Madrigal Dinner.



The serving wenches are ready with big smiles.

Sister's Christmas Catechism — The Mystery of the Magi's Gold

December 6, 2018

William H. Wakeman, III Cultural Center Theater
2280 Aaron Street, Port Charlotte

Denise Fennell returns as Sister, everyone's favorite nun, in this hilarious holiday production. Sister seeks to solve the mystery of the missing gold presented to the Christ child. "We know where the frankincense ended up and what was done with the myrrh. But the mystery remains: who took the gold?" she says. Sister's "CSI: Bethlehem-style" forensic investigation turns her mission into an educational experience for her audience, with lots of laughs along the way.



Denise Fennell as Sister.

Bianca & Tatiana's Holiday Drag Queen Bingo

December 7, 2018

Langdon Playhouse



Bring on the New Year

December 31, 2018

Langdon Playhouse

Director: Ken Crisp

Spend a part of your New Year's Eve at the Langdon. Ring in the New Year in style and enjoy cabaret-style singers with live musicians. Join us for singing, music, laughs and a special champagne toast at each show. Shows at 6:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.



Divas in a Man's World

January 24, 2019

William H. Wakeman, III Cultural Center Theater



Steven Andrade as Cher and the hilarious Gary Dee as your host (and Joan Rivers) return for in a concert experience like no other. This Vegas-style production features fabulous dancers and over 20 dazzling costume changes.

Channelling The King

January 29, 2019, 2019

William H. Wakeman, III Cultural Center Theater

Channelling The King is a lively, fun and touching one-man show that explores the relationship between Jessie Haldeman, an insurance salesman from Long Island, and Elvis Presley. The audience is entertained with Elvis songs and a story that connects Jessie and Elvis. When rumors begin to swirl that Jessie channels Elvis, attendance at his insurance seminars suddenly swells. This show is a interactive multimedia production that will delight all the senses, and highlights a side of Elvis that is rarely (if ever) seen by audiences. Elvis Presley was not only the greatest performer to ever live; he was a father, a son, a husband and a wonderful friend to so many. And he was damn funny!



Volunteers Needed

Charlotte Players needs volunteers in many areas, including acting, ushering, fundraising, building and painting sets, costuming and office assistance. Come join us in continuing a tradition of providing and promoting professional theater art programs that enrich our community. Please call 941-255-1022 or visit the website charlotteplayers.org and complete the volunteer form provided.

John Denver Tribute

February 6, 2019

William H. Wakeman, III Cultural Center Theater

Ted Vigil has won numerous competitions and awards for his uncanny resemblance to the great John Denver. Ted performs nationwide in sold-out theaters. When you see him, you'll understand why.



Ted Vigil as John Denver.

The Edwards Twins

February 12 and 13, 2019

William H. Wakeman, III Cultural Center Theater



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.

George Casey — King of Blarney

March 12, 2019

William H. Wakeman, III Cultural Center Theater



Born in a remote village in Ireland, George Casey grew up in a large family where he honed his skills as a comic at the expense of his brothers and sisters. "Ireland's International Comedian" has been entertaining audiences the world over for more than 30 years.

Cahal Dunne in Concert

March 14, 2019

William H. Wakeman, III Cultural Center Theater



Cahal Dunne

Songwriter, pianist and storyteller Cahal Dunne makes a welcome return. Known as "Ireland's Piano Man," the County Cork native is sure to entertain his many existing fans, and gain some new ones.



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.

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