

Stage Write

The Williamsburg Players “Community Theatre at Its Best”

www.williamsburgplayers.org

MARCH 2010

Act Locally

One way you can become more involved with your community at the most local level is to become a sponsor of a production at The Williamsburg Players. It is an excellent opportunity to get maximum exposure to the community without breaking the advertising budget.

Here are just some of the benefits of sponsorship:

- Invitations to Premier Night, our signature black-tie event to kick off every show. Give tickets to clients, colleagues and company employees.
- A display of your promotional materials in the theatre lobby for the entire run of the show (a 4-week minimum)
- Two tickets to each show of the season.
- A full page ad in the show program and recognition for the rest of the season as a sponsor. This also includes recognition in all advertising for the sponsored show, on our website, Facebook, Twitter, and your757.com.

Please call Susan Fournier at 757-229-1679 to learn more about how you can be a show sponsor.

✕ Educating Rita ✕

Educating Rita is a delightful comedy about a scrappy young English woman from the lower classes, Rita, who has a zest for life and a yearning for knowledge. She is tired of her mundane job as a hairdresser and wants to improve her lot in life. Her husband wants Rita to stay just the way she is. He wants her to settle down and start a family. Instead, Rita opts to expand the limits of her life by signing up for a literature course under the British open university system.

The professor, Frank, has been assigned as Rita's tutor. He is a jaded, boozy poet who hasn't written anything in years. He needs the extra money that tutoring would pay, but he would rather spend his time at the pub. However, during their first meeting Frank is impressed by Rita's down-to-earth, unspoiled intelligence, and he agrees to prepare her for her examinations.

As the play unfolds you may find that it resembles George Bernard Shaw's *Over for "Rita"*

Help us go green by signing up to receive an electronic copy of Stage Write.

Send a message to
newsletter@williamsburgplayers.org

A Message from the President

For some time now you have heard talk about our efforts to raise funds to expand YOUR theatre. The old saying that “actions speak louder than words” comes to mind here. I will simply say that as this is being written we are so very close to that dream becoming a reality.

In these exciting times for The Williamsburg Players I want to ask each of you to give something other than money. Of course, we welcome any donations...yes I had to get in that one “give us money” plug.

In the first paragraph I wrote *Over for "President"*



The Williamsburg Players

"Community Theatre at its Best"

P.O. Box 91
Williamsburg, Virginia 23187

U.S. Postage Paid
Nonprofit Org.
Williamsburg VA
Permit No. 41

President

"expand YOUR theatre." Yes, it IS your theatre. We would not exist if it were not for the wonderful generosity of our patrons and audience members. YOU are the reason we do what we do. So, if it is YOUR theatre, you should have the option of sharing what you like...what you do not...what you want from us. Whether we have 100 seats or 300, the continued success of The Williamsburg Players depends on YOU. A state-of-the-art facility will not dictate that success, only our patrons and audiences will.

So this is a bit different from most of the messages I have written; different in

that I am asking you for your input.

What is it that keeps you coming to our shows?

What would it take to have you invite your friends to come to a show?

What can we do to give you more?

Your ideas are vital to our continued success. I ask that you not be shy and voice your thoughts.

Please feel free to contact me by phone (757-229-1679) or e-mail (ed@williamsburgplayers.org) and share your thoughts with me. Our goal is not simply to have a bigger building; it is to provide you with a much better theatre experience.

— Ed Allen

Rita

Shaw's *Pygmalion*, and indeed it does. I thought of it as *My Fair Lady* without the music.

Amy Griffin has been cast in the title role. This is her first appearance on The Players' stage, but since her arrival in Williamsburg she has been very active in our theatre, having served as property mistress for *Barefoot in the Park* and as stage manager for *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Amy is a performing arts interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg.

Paul Schutte plays Frank, the professor. Paul has been active in the theatre for many years. On our stage he appeared in *Man*

of La Mancha, *Bus Stop* and *The Unexpected Guest*. Paul is a playwright whose plays have been produced locally. He works at NASA.

Educating Rita is directed by Les Waldron. Les is a veteran Players' director and actress. She was last seen on stage as Daisy Werthan in *Driving Miss Daisy*. She has directed *84 Charing Cross Road*, *Bus Stop* and *Deathtrap*, among others.

Educating Rita opens on March 18 and runs through April 10. For reservations call 757-229-0431. Leave a message, and someone on our box office staff will return your call as soon as possible.

— Al Schumann

March 18	<i>Educating Rita</i> opens
March 21	Readers Theatre: <i>Show People</i>
March 28	Readers Theatre: <i>The Oubliette</i>
April 11	Strike the set for <i>Educating Rita</i>
April 25-26	Readers Theatre audition: <i>Call It Love</i>

If you want to volunteer and be a bigger part of your community theatre, please stop by the theatre and chat with us. And don't forget to fill out a volunteer contact card while you're there.