

SEPTEMBER 2013

STAGE•WRITE

The
Williamsburg
Players
Community theatre
at its best

MOON OVER BUFFALO

SEPT. 12 - SEPT. 28, 2013

by Ken Ludwig



Is live theatre dead? Are new technologies driving theatre to its grave? These are questions pondered by playwrights and theatre companies for time immemorial. Surely Shakespeare fumed “Fie! Aroint thee, vile printing press!” and O’Neill

lamented “Movies are a horrible burden on our souls, but that’s okay because I love burdens on my soul!” Present theatres awake each day convinced it will be their last, and a thousand years from now producers and directors will question why they create entertainment with real people, but predictions about the death of theatre will always remain.

Welcome to the world of the Hays, a once renowned theatrical family reduced to doing repertory in 1953 Buffalo. George and Charlotte Hay, former B-movie stars, are not getting roles anymore, and they refuse to embrace this new thing called “television.” They stubbornly cling to live theatre and their dream of landing a big film. Just when hope seems lost, they get a call from Frank Capra, the Steven Spielberg of his generation, with an offer to star in his latest production. Happy days are here again! What could possibly go wrong?

Well ... everything. George has a dalliance with a young ingénue, and his transgression is discovered precisely at the moment he receives the call from Frank Capra.

Charlotte storms off; George becomes inconsolable; and just when everything is coming up roses, all is lost.

Only the efforts of the company can save the dream. Capra is coming to the matinee, treating it as George and Charlotte’s audition, but in the throes of despondency, George has gone missing. When the company finally finds him, he’s stinking drunk and completely unable to act. But there’s no turning back now; the show must go on! Capra witnesses an unforgettable performance when he attends the matinee.

Moon Over Buffalo is a show that can be fall-from-your-seat funny, and this cast delivers the farcical punch to do it. Leading the charge are David Brown and Kat Drummond, with their madcap misadventures supported by Lauren Burwell, Caleb Myers, Kathy Dean, Paul Wildenberger, Steve Pasco, and Alyssa Brayboy. It’s one of those rare casts who *own* a play, and this ensemble has the power to leave you in stitches. Don’t miss WP’s production of Ken Ludwig’s *Moon Over Buffalo*. You will howl with laughter!

Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 pm with Saturday matinees at 2:00 pm. Adult Tickets, \$18.00, can be purchased on our website, www.williamsburgplayers.org, where you can choose your exact seat, pay by credit card and print your tickets at home, thus bypassing the box office when you arrive at the theater. Tickets can also be purchased by calling the box office at (757) 229-0431 and leaving your name and phone number. A box office volunteer will return your call as soon as possible.

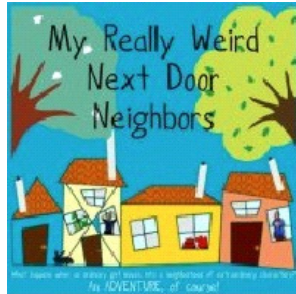
Children's Theatre

Ages Grades K - 5

My Really Weird Next Door Neighbors

presented by Hampton Roads Children's Theatre

All Seats \$7.00
Saturday Sept. 14
11:00 am



What happens when an ordinary girl moves into a neighborhood of extraordinary characters? An adventure, of course!

The show lasts approximately 1 hour and is geared toward grades Pre-K through 5th, but parents and grandparents will enjoy it equally as well.

Tickets for *My Really Weird Next Door Neighbors* can be purchased online at www.williamsburgplayers.org or by calling the box office (757) 229-0431.

Wish List

As a non-profit, all-volunteer theatre, we can only continue to improve with the gifts our patrons provide.

Two items on our "wish list" include the "loop" system for our hearing impaired customers. This allows our patrons to listen to the show directly through their hearing aid without using a headset. The cost is \$3,500.

Our new sound board increases our amplification capabilities by allowing us to use more actor microphones. Each headset is \$500.00. We would like to purchase 8 additional headsets bringing our total to 16. This would cost \$4,000.

Please consider making a donation to one of these "wishes" which will allow us to improve our facility for you.



**SEASON
SUBSCRIPTIONS
ARE STILL
AVAILABLE!**

Season subscriptions are still available for purchase. Pick up a subscription form at the playhouse, call the box office and have one mailed to you, or download one from our website www.williamsburgplayers.org. Simply fill it out and return it to PO Box 91, Williamsburg, VA 23187 and your tickets for the whole season will be mailed to you!!! Don't miss a single production and have the same seat reserved just for you for the whole season.



And say good-bye to the sold-out sign!

RETURN ENGAGEMENT!

World renowned boogie-woogie pianist BOB MILNE returns to the James-York playhouse!

Sat. Oct 12th 7:30 pm

Sun. Oct 13th 2:30 pm

\$25.00

Special Event



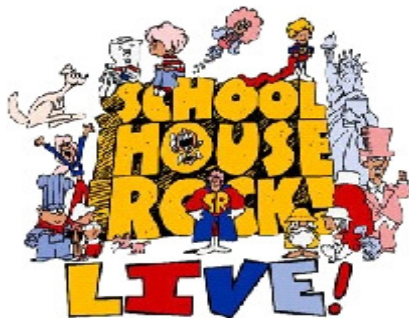
After performing last November here at the James-York Playhouse to a nearly sold-out audience, Mr. Milne was invited back this year and has graciously agreed to hold two performances.

Bob Milne is considered the best ragtime / boogie-woogie pianist in the world! Playing in concert halls since 1991, Mr. Milne plays worldwide, touring over 250 days every year. A comment often heard following one of his performances is, unbelievable. Come be a part of this two hour ragtime/ boogie-woogie piano concert! From American standards to a patriotic red, white & blue tribute, this concert will be ragtime / boogie-woogie piano playing at its best! When not on tour, Bob teaches music and music history at Florida / Atlantic University.

After the performance join us for a catered reception in the theater lobby to meet and greet with Bob Milne.

AUDITIONS

Would you or someone you know like to audition for one of our productions? As a first time performer or a seasoned actor, all levels of talent are welcome.



September 15th & 16th, 2013 7:00 pm

Minimum Cast: 3M / 3W

Prepare a song no longer than 2 minutes in length. Please provide sheet music for the accompanist or a Karaoke style CD without words. No a capella permitted.

The show runs the first three weekends of November.

For questions or additional information, please contact the director, Brandon Lyles at blyles2@me.com.

For more information visit www.williamsburgplayers.org

**Congratulations to Jessica DiPette,
Jamestown High School Class of '13
and winner of our 2013
McCulley-Scammon Scholarship**

Good luck at the University of Miami!



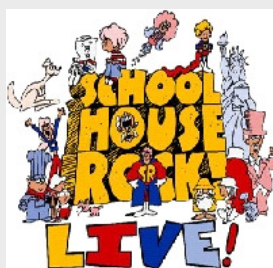
OUR 2013 - 2014 SEASON



Sept. 12 - Sept. 28, 2013

Written by Ken Ludwig

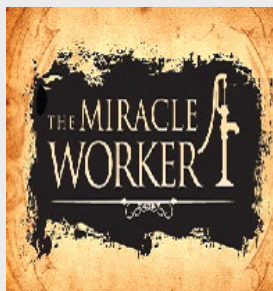
Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



Nov. 7 - Nov. 23, 2013

Book: Scott Ferguson, Kyle Hall & George Keating. Music & Lyrics: Lynn Ahrens, Bob Dorough, Dave Frishberg, Kathy Mandry, George Newall & Tom Yohe. Based on an idea by David McCall and the TV series created by George Newall & Tom Yohe

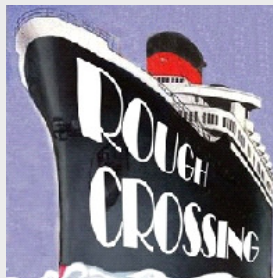
Presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International



Jan. 16 - Feb. 1, 2014

Written by William Gibson

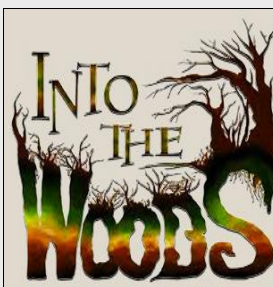
Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



Mar. 27 - Apr. 12, 2014

Written by Tom Stoppard

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



June 5 - June 21, 2014

*Book by James Lapine
Music and Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim*

Presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International

SEASON TICKETS WERE MAILED THE BEGINNING OF AUGUST. REMEMBER, TICKETS ARE EXCHANGEABLE FOR A DIFFERENT PERFORMANCE DATE OF THE SAME PRODUCTION WHEN REQUESTED IN ADVANCE OF THE DATE & TIME ON THE TICKET BEING HELD.



D. Hugh Siggins

President's Message

Spence, chair of the Scholarship Committee, gave her report and introduced Jessica DiPette, our scholarship winner this year. She will be receiving a \$2,000 grant from the Players to attend The University of Miami, majoring in Theater. Also at the meeting, Connie Granger, Peter Natale and Hugh Siggins were elected to new three-year terms on the Board and Marsha Allen, who had been appointed to fill a vacancy, was also elected. The members were also brought up to date on the changes to the facility and those anticipated this year.

The Williamsburg Players now begin their 57th season. On August 4, 2013, we had the annual meeting of the membership. Betsy Jo

One of the new programs that we will be participating in this year is hosting two courses for Christopher Wren Association in our theater. I will be teaching a two-hour class on "What's happening at Williamsburg Players" on Tuesday mornings, September 10, 17 and 24. In addition Glenn Winters will host a class on "Understanding Opera" on Thursday mornings, September 12, 19 and 26. Hopefully, both of these classes will bring new patrons to our theater. Both courses will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

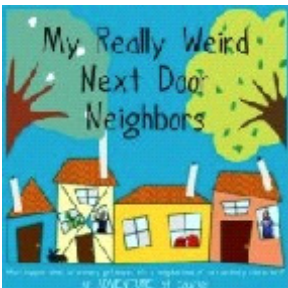
Our first show of the season, *Moon Over Buffalo*, a comedy written by Ken Ludwig, is directed by Doug Stewart, a first time director with us, who was last seen as Oscar in last years *The Odd Couple*. The show runs September 12 through the 28th. Individual tickets may be purchased online at www.williamsburgplayers.org or by calling the box office at (757) 229-1679. In addition, season tickets are available by submitting a form or by calling the box office. We hope you will take advantage of getting the best seat selection with a season subscription. This is the second year of our Children's Theater, opening with *My Really Weird Next Door Neighbors*, which will be performed at 11:00 am September 14. The program is geared for Pre-K to 5th grade.

On October 12th and 13th, we look forward to a return engagement from Bob Milne, world renowned ragtime and boogie/woogie pianist and overall patriotic performer who was in Williamsburg for one performance last year. This year, he will be at our playhouse for a Saturday night and Sunday afternoon engagement. Tickets for both his shows can be purchased online or by calling the box office. Please get your tickets early and come see the best in live entertainment.

Children's Theatre

Ages Grades Pre K - 5

OUR
2013-2014
CHILDREN'S THEATRE
SEASON



MY REALLY WEIRD NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS

SEPT. 14, 2013



NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

NOV. 23, 2013



AESOP'S FABLES

FEB. 1, 2014



ONCE UPON A TIME

APRIL 5, 2014



THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF CHESSIE THE MANATEE

JUNE 14, 2014

ALL SHOWS ARE SATURDAY MORNINGS AT 11:00 AM TICKETS: \$7.00