

SLT BACKSTAGE

Smithfield Little Theatre Bi-Monthly Newsletter

NEWS & SHOWS

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**SMITHFIELD
LITTLE THEATRE**
Hamming it up since 1962



Main Stage

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Show Dates: April 26th - May 19th, 2024
Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8:00 pm
Sundays at 2:30 pm
Director: Dillon Bates

To purchase tickets visit
<https://www.smithfieldlittletheatre.org/> or
call the Box Office at (757) 357-7338

Meet Our Directors of Season 63

Director of Xanadu - Jeff Johnson

Jeff is excited to be returning to SLT to be directing another production. Previous SLT directing credits include The Addams Family, Spamalot, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Hands on a Hardbody, The Drowsy Chaperone, and The Kitchen Witches all at SLT. Favorite past roles include shows such as Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Chicago, Peter and the Starcatcher, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. He has been involved with SLT for over 15 years volunteering in many different capacities.



1. Why did you want to direct your show?

Xanadu is a fun show that has a big following from the movie. I love Greek Mythology. Also, roller skates!

2. What do you love about community theatre?

Community theatre is a unique group of people that come together for one thing, creating Art! As volunteers, we do it because we love it.

3. What are you most excited about directing your show?

I am excited about working with a group of people that want to bring this show to life.

4. What is something people should know about your show that they might not already know about?

Careful where you sit, you might be on stage with the actors!

5. Why should people come see your show?

Xanadu is going to be a fun, energetic, and bring things to the SLT stage that you've never seen before. It will be a great night of entertainment.

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Meet Our Directors of Season 63

Director of Italian American Reconciliation - Jeff Corriveau

Jeff has worked in the arts for the past 30 years professionally and academically; directing, designing, acting and coaching more than 300 productions throughout the U.S. He has worked with many styles of the performing arts from Musical Theatre to Opera and Ballet to National Tours. He has worked as a Director, Dialect Coach, Designer, Actor and Educator. A graduate of Lindenwood University (M.F.A.), Univ. of Maine (M.A.), and Franklin Pierce Univ. (B.A.) Mr. Corriveau has had the pleasure of working professionally with such notables as former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Julie Andrews, Lily Tomlin, Gregory Hines, Bruno Kirby, Ed Begley, Jr. and Bill Cosby in both television and stage performances. He has taught every aspect of theatre at colleges, universities and various theatres across the country. He has published his work *WAITINGFOR GODOT: A VAUDEVILLIAN APPROACH*, and *THE THIRD PERSON IN THE ROOM, EXISTENTIALISM IN THEATRE*. Co-Creator of *I HEAR AMERICA SINGING* and *HISTORY ALIVE* two touring productions. Mr. Corriveau has received awards from the Kennedy Center for his Scenic Designs of *WEST SIDE STORY* and *HURLYBURLY*, nominated for the President's National Arts Medal and various local awards. Mr. Corriveau is a Past President of the Little Theatre of Norfolk, a member of PCT's Board of Directors and a current Arts Commissioner for the Norfolk Commission on the Arts and Humanities.



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Meet Our Directors of Season 63

1. Why did you want to direct your show?

For me the show has been 30 years in the making from first being exposed to the writer John Patrick Shanley. I think this show hit a spot for me early in my career due to the early exposure of professional theatre in small spaces. I love the intimacy of the show, the connection the characters make to the audience and the understanding that we have all had the one "crazy" relationship.

2. What do you love about community theatre?

The community. Watching local performers grow, learn and develop through the rehearsal process and from production to production.

3. What are you most excited about directing your show?

It is not a musical. I tend to do large musicals or fast broad farces. It will be nice to work with performers on an intimate piece that brings humor to the common day elements in life.

4. What is something people should know about your show that they might not already know about?

Aldo is a flirt so be careful ladies as to where you sit.

5. Why should people come see your show?

Italian American Reconciliation is just a fun perspective on life and the pursuit of love. It is a warm show not a cheesy comedy. However, there may be a little humor shredded on top.

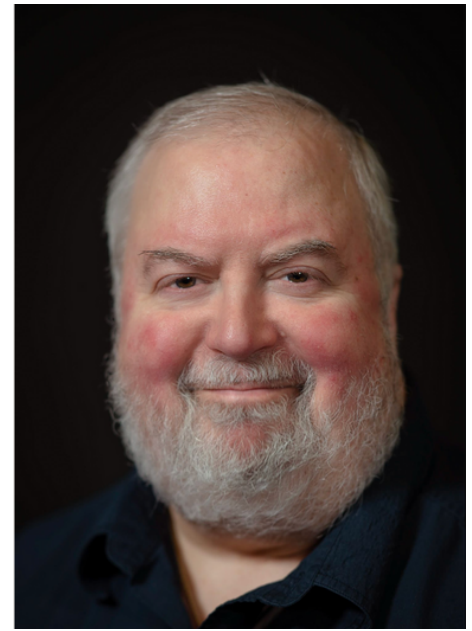
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Meet Our Directors of Season 63

Director of Ragtime - Marty Bussert

Marty Bussert is pleased to be directing his first show with Smithfield. Marty retired in 2015 and moved to Williamsburg from Chicago. Since moving to the area, Marty has directed shows at the Williamsburg Players (Jane Eyre the Musical, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum and Little Shop of Horrors) and at Peninsula Community Theatre (Ragtime and My Fair Lady).

In addition to directing, Marty has also performed in several shows including: Jekyll and Hyde the Musical, 12 Angry Men, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat. Marty lives in Williamsburg with his wife Deborah.



1. Why did you want to direct your show?

Ragtime is my favorite musical. The storyline, the music, the choreography, the set, the lights, the...well...everything, hits all the right buttons. Directing a show with a powerful story, a well written book and music that you can sing as you leave the theatre makes the director's job easy.

2. What do you love about community theatre?

Community theatre is populated by volunteers. Everyone is there because they want to be. We are all doing what we love. Each show introduces you to old friends, and the opportunity to meet new friends.

Community theatre is something you can do for life, no matter what your career is, community theatre welcomes you. There is no wrong age to start, and no one ages out. As long as you have the interest, community theatre welcomes you. What's not to like.

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Meet Our Directors of Season 63

3. What are you most excited about directing your show?

I am a story teller. I use the script and the music to weave a tapestry of the problems people face and how the human spirit overcomes adversity. The music of Ahrens and Flaherty will stick in your mind from the moment you sit down until the final number. Ragtime is meant to both entertain and to challenge. The issues addressed in Ragtime are universal. The audience will laugh at times and cry at times. Watching how the three families in Ragtime meet, adapt and grow, will leave audiences wanting more. This is the reaction musical theatre casts and staff adore.

4. What is something people should know about your show that they might not already know about?

Edgar Lawrence Doctorow, or EL Doctorow as he is known on his novels, wrote a book in 1975 called Ragtime. In 1998 the musical Ragtime opened on Broadway. In the opening of the show we are introduced to the social and political climate of the United States in the early 20th century by meeting all the characters of the show – famous celebrities of the time as well as fictional “private citizens.” The story revolves around three groups of people. First, we visit a well-to-do family from New Rochelle. Next, we go to Harlem to meet Coalhouse Walker Jr, a ragtime pianist and his girlfriend Sarah. Finally, we meet a group of immigrants arriving at Ellis Island where we meet Tateh and his daughter. The lives of these three American families are entwined with the likes of Booker T. Washington, Harry Houdini, J.P. Morgan, Henry Ford, Evelyn Nesbit and Emma Goldman.

5. Why should people come see your show?

In addition to the fabulous storyline, the music is riveting. Watching how the lives of these three families are woven together with music, choreography, a huge cast and famous historical figures that brings all of the facets of musical theatre together in a satisfying whole. No one who sees Ragtime the Musical leaves without being emotionally moved and musically satisfied. I challenge the audience to leave the theatre without placing Ragtime in their top ten musical favorites. Come to see the show and prove me wrong!!

Upcoming Event

Summer Youth Program

Program Dates: June 9th - August 4th, 2024

5-11 years

American Mountain Musical-Jack and the Beanstalk

In real life, Jack is frightened of everything except the adventures in his head. But when given the choice to stay home and dream, or explore the world a giant beanstalk has to offer, Jack decides to climb the beanstalk and have a real-life adventure of his very own.



12-18 years

Grease-High School Edition

The hit musical, specially designed for young actors or audiences! Shorter and more suitable in content for teens and preteens, this abridged version retains the fun-loving spirit and immortal songs that make Grease a favorite among rock 'n' roll fans of all ages.



Volunteer Opportunities

Smithfield Little Theatre is an all-volunteer organization. Volunteers, many with no prior theatre experience, handle all responsibilities from acting to ushering. There are needs which can take up as little or as much time as you wish to contribute. Fill your leisure time with fun. Make new friends. Treat yourself to a new experience! Join the SLT family!

Volunteers needed for Summer Youth Program!

Areas needed are:

Box Office, Concessions and Ushers

Volunteers
needed