



Bay City Players Newsletter

July-August-September 2011

Volume 94—Issue 1

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BCP Board Meetings

Second Monday

July 13, 2011

August 8, 2011

September 12, 2011

7 PM



Michigan's Oldest Continuously Operating Community Theatre



Every so often, we all want to just sit back and have a good time without any effort at all. And that is just what happens to audiences who get to enjoy 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. It is hard to know if *Spelling Bee* is a musical that's very funny or a comedy with delightful music. But whatever you call it, nothing gets in the way of the perfect combination of ingredients.

There are six middle school students (mostly nerds) competing in the annual spelling bee. (They are played by young adults, not kids.) They each come with a personality not fully developed yet and what they do to find out who they really are creates a constant buzz and constant laughs.

Remember how middle school was the worst time of all: too old to do this; too young to do that; the opposite sex, both repulsive and alluring at the same time. You know what you want to do, but how do you do it? Well, times haven't changed much as these six kids sing their way through one of the big events of their lives and one of the most relaxing, fun-filled evenings on your calendar.

We'd like to say this is a full family show, but we have chosen to suggest 12 years old and up. Certainly, you can be the judge on that. Just let us say there is one hilarious song sung by one of the boys that deals with a particular predicament brought on by puberty and young hormones; that, and a naughty word here and there. It really is nothing much, but we want you to have a heads up.

And remember, September is back-to-school time. So, come on down to the gym for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Cheer on your favorites and learn how to spell d-e-l-i-g-h-t-f-u-l.



Bay City Players Annual Meeting
JULY 11—7 pm **All Members Invited!**

See what's next in our 94th season in 2011/2012!

► Opening Musical: *"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"*,

This charming **musical** recently left Broadway and is hot stuff all over the country. Take six precocious kids (played by young adults), put them into the finals of a big-deal spelling bee run by slightly off-center adults, invite four audience members to join in the spelling, add **songs** and laughs one after the other, and you have a **musical comedy** spelled A-W-E-S-O-M-E. Whether it's the boy who can only spell if he writes the word out with his foot or the girl who is happy to brag "I speak six languages," you'll pick your personal winner; but the real winner will be spelled Y-O-U. Not really for children under 12. *Winner of Two Tony Awards, 2005*

► Comedy/Mystery: *"A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody"*, by Ron Bernas

Matthew vows to kill off Julia before the end of the year. But Julia will have none of that nonsense and remains alive at all costs. However, their friends start dropping like flies. A dim-witted detective suspects it is Julia who wants to knock off Matthew while the audience suspects its in for an evening of screwball murder-mystery comedy. A brand new play from a Michigan playwright, *A Little Murder* is a lot of fun for everyone. Winner Best New Play Contest Community Theatre Association of Michigan

Winter Romance:

► Stages Production: *"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"* by Barbara Robinson. The funniest Christmas show ever, Don't miss it!

► Recyclables: *"Christmas Gift for the Community."* This show with the Recyclables of Bay City Players and their guests has become a community favorite. As always, tickets are free on a first come first serve basis. Tickets available on Monday, December 12, 2011 @ Bay City Players office.

Message from the President

Isn't it nice to be able to relax and enjoy summer? I hope you're making the most of it! Our many volunteers continue to work through the summer months in many capacities. I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who worked on Youtheatre this year. Everyone deserves a big pat on the back! We are gearing up to bring you a spectacular season that you won't want to miss. We are producing five productions never seen on our stage before and we are excited! Season Memberships are still available so get yours quick as this is one season you won't want to miss.

Again, I am so grateful for our many volunteers. You certainly are the backbone of Bay City Players.

Michael Wisniewski

President, Board of Directors



Celebrating
94 years!

Season 94!

***The 25th Annual Putnam
County Spelling Bee***
**September 22-25 & 29-30;
October 1-2**

***A Little Murder Never
Hurt Anybody***

November 11-13 & 17-20

Almost Maine

January 13-15 & 19-22

All My Sons

March 2-4 & 8-11

The Drowsy Chaperone

May 3-6 & 10-13



Buddy Season Tickets! (Valid only through July 2011)

(includes five admissions: 2 musicals and 3 for any other show or shows)

Please fill out this form and return it to Bay City Players.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Buddy's name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Mail with Check or Money Order or bring in to:

Bay City Players
1214 Columbus Ave
Bay City, MI 48708

Email your comments:
info@baycityplayers.com

For more information, call 893-5555

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:

_____ Visa _____ Master Card _____ Discover

Acct #: _____ exp: M _____ Y _____

Security code: _____

Email: _____

Buddy's Email: _____

_____ **Buddy Regular Membership(s)**

@ \$70 each \$ _____

_____ **Buddy Regular Senior/Student(s)**

@ \$60 each \$ _____

Total for Memberships \$ _____

Contribution to Building Fund \$ _____

Did You Know?

It was Thursday morning and tonight was the final dress rehearsal for *Wait Until Dark*. Kurt Miller had a lead role as the "bad guy," but it was not butterflies he was feeling. When he got up that morning, Kurt had a terrible pain in his back. When wife, Judy, came by the house during her break, Kurt had already called Bay Regional and was in ER. By the time Judy got there, the pain was diagnosed as kidney stones passing and Kurt was told he'd be spending the night at Bay Regional.

What to do about *Wait Until Dark's* dress rehearsal with some invited audience! Cameron Pichan offered to carry a book and walk through the part in order to keep the rehearsal running. Cameron had a small part at the end of the play and was familiar with Kurt's blocking. He did it and carried it off just fine. In the meantime, Kurt passed the kidney stone and was told about 9:00 PM that he could go home if he felt up to it. And he did.

After a full day's rest on Friday, Kurt went on to be his evil self in *Wait Until Dark* and the audience was none the wiser. See, the show must go on. Wait a minute, who said in the first place anyway? Certainly no one passing kidney stones.

Season 94 is loaded—loaded with brand new shows and award winners. Our two musicals are *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Both are Tony award winners fresh from Broadway and currently delighting audiences from one coast to the other. They are both as funny as they are musical. Our romantic comedy, *Almost, Maine*, is a new show that had more productions last year than any other show in the country. *A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody* is our mystery/comedy and it walked away with the first-place prize in Michigan play competition. And our drama is a revival of an American classic, *All My Sons*, by Arthur Miller, as meaningful today as when he first wrote it during World War II. It, too, is a Tony winner. **Season 94** is clearly one you will not want to miss.



Bay City Players is giving you a chance to help a buddy.

Any current member or new member who brings a friend into the Players family of patrons will be provided the **Buddy Season Ticket** price of \$70 (\$60 senior/student). When you and a "buddy" each purchase a season ticket, you will both pay the reduced rate: a savings of \$10 over the full price season ticket and \$21 over individual ticket prices. **This offer is good through July**, so pick your "buddy" now and make plans to share a great lineup of shows.

You can purchase **Buddy Tickets** by mail at Bay City Players, 1214 Columbus, Bay City, MI 48708. Or you can telephone between 9AM and 2PM Monday through Thursday, (989) 893-5555. Make sure to have all the information for you and your "buddy" when you call: name, address, telephone, e-mail, and credit card numbers. This could turn your "buddy" into a best friend.



Return Service Requested



A Needful Knowing!
Bay City Players *Stages of Discovery*

Summer Program — Preliminary Announcement
In August, Bay City Players *Stages of Discovery* will hold a series of workshops focusing on some of the performance and technical aspects of theatre. Students will participate in activities that help to develop skills in theatre as well as in learning to see how science and/or math knowledge applies to theatre craft. Acting, movement, creative thinking and problem solving, awareness of the world around us, and theatre technology will be explored. The workshops will be geared to four grade levels, and grade-appropriate activities will be conducted by skilled and experienced theatre personnel.

- Week One (August 1 – 4)
 - Early Elementary (completed grades 1 – 3)
 - Later Elementary (completed grades 4 – 5)
 - Week Two (August 8 – 12)
 - Intermediate (completed grades 6 – 8)
 - Secondary (completed grades 9 – 12)
- All sessions will be held at Bay City Players (air-conditioned) Theatre from 10:00 to 3:00, Monday through Thursday. Students must bring their own lunches (refrigerators are available).

The fee for each four-day session is \$40 per student. Some partial scholarships may be available.

No one-day registrations.

Decorative border of stylized characters (resembling 'B' or 'P') surrounds the following text:

Dates to Remember:

- ★ BCP Annual Meeting,
July 11 at 7 p.m.
- ★ Stages Summer Workshops—August 1-4 & 8-12
- ★ 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee, Sept 22-25 & 29-30 & Oct. 1-2
- ★ A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody November 11-13 & 17-20
- ★ December Christmas Shows