

Ripples Riverwalk Theatre



Supported in part by MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS • NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS • INGHAM COUNTY HOTEL/MOTEL TAX GRANT through the ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER LANSING



Season 27 • Number 10
April-May, 2016

228 Museum Dr. • PO Box 12249 • Lansing, MI 48901 • 517-482-5700 • Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. • e-mail: RWT@riverwalktheatre.com • web site: RiverwalkTheatre.com

Meet Thumbelina, a normal girl except for her size: no taller than a thumb.

Imagine all the possibilities of that!

Then witness them live as All-of-us Express Children's Theatre brings *Thumbelina*, Vera Morris' adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen tale, to Riverwalk April 22-24 and April 29-May 1.

Thumbelina is intriguing because it's not a typical fairy tale, says director Bailey Austin Davis.

"It's not a love story," he said. "Thumbelina is not a princess; she's just a girl. It has given us the opportunity to have a really original interpretation."

Thumbelina's backstory in a nutshell: A lonely woman is given a seed and told that she can grow it into a little girl. When Thumbelina emerges from a flower, she's so tiny that huge adventures await. She winds up in the unpleasant custody of a toad family and receives help from some unexpected sources.



Those she meets include an elegant beetle, a not-so-nice rat, a playful swallow, some dressmaking mice and more.

"I'm really excited for everybody to see this," Davis said, adding that cast and crew are working hard on the production.

"Every day I go in and I see the stuff they're working on and it's just at a whole new level," he said.

Davis was assistant director earlier this year on MSU's production of *The Monkey King*, a classic Chinese story about a

trickster's travels.

He said Riverwalk's thrust stage, with the audience on three sides, presents a new opportunity for the All-of-us kids, who usually perform at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing, which has a proscenium stage.

"It's a very different kind of blocking," he said. "It's a super important thing to learn, to make sure the audience gets the whole experience," he said.

Kathleen Lavey

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

April 22-24 & 29-May 1 - THUMBELINA, family adventure adapted by Vera Morris from the Hans Christian Andersen tale, produced and performed by the youth of All-of-us Express directed by Bailey Austin Davis

AUDITIONS and Crew sign-up for **The Phantom Tollbooth**, Monday OR Tuesday, May 15 & 16, 6:30-8:30 pm (see p. 3)

May 13-15 & 20-22 - **BEYOND THERAPY**, comedy by Christopher Durang, directed by Michael Schacherbauer

June 2-5 & 9-12 - **RENT**, musical by Jonathan Larson, directed by Kelly Stuibler

June 18 - **BARNEY AWARDS** - free show, awards, reception, 8 pm, with **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** preceding at 7 pm in the Marcia Voigt Rehearsal Hall.

June 25 - **CABARET** - Tigi Habtemariam & friends sing Gospel from Church & Stage

PLAYS: 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. Fri./Sat./Sun. \$15 (\$12 student/sr./military) Bargain Thursdays: \$10 (\$8)

MUSICALS: 7 pm Thursdays; 8 pm Fri./Sat.; 2 pm Sundays \$22 (\$20 student/sr./military)

CHILDREN'S SHOWS: 7 pm Fridays; 2 pm and 4:30 pm Saturdays; 2 pm Sundays \$5 children; \$7 adults age 13+

BLACK BOX SHOWS at RWT's Black Box Stage 8 pm Fridays/Saturdays; 2 pm Sundays • \$12 (\$10 student/senior/military)

SPECIAL EVENTS - More info at RiverwalkTheatre.com

AUDITIONS - More info at RiverwalkTheatre.com

REVIEW

Wait Until Dark

It's been a while since Riverwalk Theatre tackled a thriller, so it was great fun watching director Rita Deibler and her talented cast and crew bring the classic *Wait Until Dark* to life. It's a complex tale, requiring a steady hand to guide the actors, while juggling difficult staging, special effects, lighting and fight choreography.

Rita, despite this being her directing debut at Riverwalk, drew on her extensive "techie" training and experience gained



Josh Martin
cons the
seemingly
helpless,
blind, Cassie
Little

PHOTO
BY RITA
DEIBLER

—continued on page 2

Wait Until Dark continued from page 1

working alongside seasoned Riverwalk directors to pull it off.

Cassie Little plays the seemingly vulnerable blind protagonist Susy Hendrix, whose apartment is invaded by a trio of dangerous con-men in search of a heroin-stuffed doll. Cassie brings a touching authenticity to the physically demanding role of Susy. The audience roots for her as she begins to out-think the invading trio and ultimately transforms the darkness into a weapon against them.

She and Adam Bright, who plays her husband, are convincingly effective as the loving couple oblivious to the danger awaiting them. Roshawndra Thomas plays Gloria, Susy's teenage errand runner, who



Michael Phelps poses as Sergeant Carlino as Cassie Little descends the stairs

• PHOTO BY RITA DEIBLER

complicates the plot by stealing the doll she thought was her gift, and then becomes Susy's seeing-eye accomplice, helping her learn the truth about the con men.

Josh Martin tackles the challenging role of Mike Talman, the henchman with a heart. Is he a good guy, a bad guy, or something in between? Whatever the verdict, his sudden violent demise leaves the audience a bit shaken. Michael Phelps is Carlino, a hood with brass knuckles. Michael finds the humor in the role, playing Carlino as an imposing figure with a bumbling swagger.

Effectively rounding out the menacing trio is Spencer Perrenoud, who plays Susy's shape-shifting tormentor Harry Roat, plus junior and senior versions of the same. He has one of the best lines in the show, declaring to Susy that "clever, arrogant girls must be punished." And punish her he does, rattling his hippie "love" beads like a snake, terrifying his victim.

Leo Poroshin and William Beam appear toward the end of the show as cops to the rescue. The play is set in 1967, and costumer Wendy Brandell captured the period, love beads and all. A Bob-Nees-designed set was decorated by Ray and Melody Kurtis, who also get credit for the authentic 60s-era props. Lighting designer Nick Eaton kept the suspense going with his well-placed shadows and meticulously-timed blackouts.

Wait Until Dark was produced by Gary Mitchell. Erik Grill was stage manager. Rounding out the crew were set builders Leroy Cupp and Brian Stratton; scenographer and hair magician John Delaney; fight choreographer Tobin Bates; lighting technician Kelly Garland; and sound technician Ric Sadler.

Carol Ferris



Cassie Little phones for help as Spencer Perrenaud lurks • PHOTO BY RITA DEIBLER



June 25 Riverwalk Cabaret to Bring Back Tigi!

Local "star" Tigiste Habtemariam has agreed to return from Columbus, Ohio for a gospel-inspired Riverwalk Cabaret, showcasing raise-the-roof songs from both church and stage.

A group of Tigi's gospel-ready Lansing musical friends will be joining her, accompanied by John Dale Smith and friends. Stay tuned for further details and —save the date!



Each rental item is unique, selected and combined for an individual customer. Separate articles start at \$10; complete ensembles at \$45. Stop by for personal service from our costume consultants. Reserve your garment/accessories in advance and pick them up before your event. Watch our Facebook page for featured costumes. Call (517) 484-9199 or email costumes@riverwalktheatre.com for more info.

RWTCostumeShop.com

1131 MAY STREET, LANSING, MI 48906

REGULAR HOURS:

TUE. & THUR. 3:00-6:00 & SAT. 10 AM - 2 PM

**...managed by Riverwalk Theatre has just what
you need to look your best for Parties,
Plays, Special Events, PROM!**

a free
workshop
for youth
actors...



...and
backstage
crew
aged 10-18

youngartisanworkshop

Auditions and Crew Sign-up
Monday OR Tuesday, May 15 & 16
6:30-8:30 pm

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at auditions. A parent or guardian must attend the parent orientation (held during auditions) for the child to be allowed to participate in the workshop.

The necessary Young Artisan Workshop audition form and permission form will be provided at the audition and must be completed by a parent, not the child.

Rehearsals: Mon-Thurs 6:30-8:30
Show Dates: July 28-31, 2016

Children will be reading from the script.

Please contact Riverwalk Theatre or email young.artisan.workshop@gmail.com for a PDF copy of the script.

A U D I T I O N S



by Susan Nanus

Based on the book by Norton Juster
directed by SaDonna Croff

Here are Milo's adventures in the Land of Wisdom where he's forced to think about many new things. Milo learns of the argument between King Azaz and his brother, the Mathemagician whose disagreement over words and numbers has led to the banishment of Princesses Sweet Rhyme and Pure Reason. Milo is dispatched to rescue the Princesses from the Land of Ignorance. The knowledge and skills Milo picks up on his journey help him to save the Princesses. When he must return home, Milo's sorry to leave his friends — but enriched by his experience, he realizes his attitude towards learning will never be the same

CAST OF CHARACTERS

THE CLOCK

MILO - a boy

THE WHETHER MAN

SIX LETHARGARIANS

TOCK - the watchdog

AZAZ THE UNABRIDGED -
King of Dictionopolis

THE MATHEMAGICIAN -
King of Digitopolis

PRINCESS SWEET RHYME

PRINCESS PURE REASON

GATEKEEPER OF DICTIONOPOLIS

THREE WORD MERCHANTS

THE LETTERMAN -
the fourth word merchant

SPELLING BEE

THE HUMBUG

THE DUKE OF DEFINITION

THE MINISTER OF MEANING

THE EARL OF ESSENCE

THE COUNT OF CONNOTATION

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF UNDERSTANDING
A PAGE

KAKAFONOUS A. DISCHORD,
DOCTOR OF DISSONANCE

THE AWFUL DYNNE

THE DODECAHEDRON

MINERS OF THE NUMBERS MINE

THE EVERPRESENT WORDSNATCHER

THE TERRIBLE TRIVIUM

THE DEMON OF INSINCERITY

SENSES TAKER

NOW is the
time to join.

*Those joining
after March 1
are members
through June 30,
2017*

Keep Riverwalk thriving for years to come. Please join at whatever level you can afford.

Actor — \$15-24, Ripples, voting

Technician — \$25-49, Ripples, voting, program listing

Stage Manager — \$50-99, Ripples, voting, program listing, and one comp ticket

Director — \$100-249, Ripples, voting, program listing, two comp tickets

Producer — \$250-499, Ripples, voting, program listing, four comp tickets

Star — \$500-999, Ripples, voting, program listing, six comps, name on theatre seat

Angel — \$1000+, Ripples, voting, program listing, 12 comp tickets, name on a theatre seat and on the donor board in the lobby

Go to riverwalk-theatre.com. Click "more" then "get involved" to join online. Or just mail/give a check to Mike at the office. We're 501c3 tax deductible. If you're already a member, recruit a NEW member today!

Come prepared to read from the script. PERUSAL SCRIPTS are available at the Riverwalk office, Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 5:30 pm. Call 517-482-5700 to check availability or request a scanned copy: rwt@RiverwalkTheatre.com

RIVERWALK THEATRE

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Ripples is published by Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., P.O. Box 12249, Lansing, MI 48901. Submit info to Editor Jane Zussman (jszussman@gmail.com) or Riverwalk Manager Mike Siracuse (rwt@riverwalktheatre.com) office hours: Tuesdays thru Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Reservations and info at: 517-482-5700 or RiverwalkTheatre.com



Riverwalk Theatre

P.O. Box 12249 • Lansing MI 48901

Next to Impression 5,
228 Museum Drive, south off
Michigan Avenue, across from
the Lansing Center

Alison Alfredson Lobby Artist March 31- May 31, 2016



A lifelong Michigan resident now residing in Lansing, Alison attended The Art Institute of Philadelphia and received an Associate Degree in Visual Communications. She returned to Michigan and took art and literature courses at LCC. This led her to finish her B.F.A. in Painting from Maine College of Art in Portland, Maine.

She works in acrylic paint on a variety of surfaces and is fastidious about mixing paint. Recent paintings reference neighborhoods and surrounding landscapes highlighting one particular part of the subject area to stand independently — a lone tree in a field, a building's rooftop, or a large cast shadow on a quiet street.

She has sold paintings in galleries in Lansing and East Lansing, and has participated in group exhibitions at venues and galleries in Lansing and East Lansing; Williamston; Okemos; Muskegon; Shiawassee; Naperville, Illinois; Kalispell, Montana; Louisville, Kentucky; and Portland, Maine.

She is also a current board member of the East Lansing Art Festival.

Please visit Alison's website at:
www.alisonartisan.com



Family Adventure Adapted by Vera Morris From the Hans Christian Andersen Tale, Directed by Bailey Austin Davis

Thumbelina yearns to travel to the Land of the Little People to live in a world her own size. However, a crafty cat has other ideas and poor Thumbelina is traded off to a family of Toads! Kind animals she meets along the way help Thumbelina find what she always wanted.

April 22-24 & April 29-May 1, 2016

Audition info at cityofeastlansing.com/allotus;
tickets on sale 3/29/16; general seating

7 pm Fridays; 2 & 4:30 pm Saturdays; 2 pm Sundays
\$7 adults age 18+ • \$5 children • general seating

228MuseumDr., southoffMich.Ave., nexttoImpression5

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