



COMMUNITY THEATER

Asides

July 2019

Mark Your Calendars

PLAZA SUITE

Dinner Theater: August 1-3;
7:00 p.m.

Show Only: August 4, 3:00 p.m.
Church of St. Therese, Gloucester

OLIVER! AUDITIONS

August 3, 1-4 p.m.
Ware Episcopal Church Hall,
Gloucester

OLIVER!

November 14-17, 8 p.m.
Mathews High School, Mathews

CHP MONTHLY MEETING

Next meeting, Monday, August 12
at Courthouse Restaurant

MONTHLY MEETINGS

are usually held on the second
Mondays of each month,
locations to be announced.

For more information
about CHP events, go to
courthouseplayers.org

“Hello, Operator? This is Suite 719.”



calls childhood sweetheart Muriel Tate, now a suburban housewife who over the years has idolized him from afar, for a little dalliance.

The last act is directed by John Dempsey, who made his directorial debut with last year's hilarious production of *The Dixie Swim Club*. In it, Norma and Roy Hubley are a mother and father who are fighting about the best way to get their daughter out of the bathroom and down to the ballroom where guests await her. Or, as Norma yells, “I want you to come out of that bathroom and get married!”

Karen and Sam of Act I are portrayed with humor and pathos by Anne Rhodes and Tom Robinson. Rhodes has been in numerous CHP productions since 1993, including as Edith in this year's spring show, *Blithe Spirit*. But she is just as well known for her contributions to almost every CHP show as a costumer and/or graphic designer. In her day-to-day life, she is a graphic designer for NASA's Langley Research Center. Robinson had a long absence from CHP after playing Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* in 2003, but returned last year to grace our stage as Carl in *Bus Stop*. Over the years, he has also supported CHP's musicals as a trumpeter in the Courthouse Community Orchestra. He is active in civic organizations and remains active in the aviation field, serving as president of Global Emergency Response and vice president of Total Corporate Aviation Services.

Hilarity abounds in this portrait of three couples successively occupying a suite at New York's premiere 1960s-era luxury hotel, The Plaza.

In Act I, a suburban couple, Karen and Sam Nash, take the suite while their house is being painted, and it turns out to be the one in which they honeymooned 23 (or was it 24?) years before. And was yesterday the anniversary, or is it today? The act is directed by Sherry Hamilton.

The wry tale of a marriage in tatters is followed by Act II, directed by RJ Erickson in his CHP directorial debut. It tells of the exploits of Jesse Kiplinger, a Hollywood producer who, after three marriages, is looking for fresh fields. He

Annual Dues

Annual membership renewals are due in June. If you have not recently renewed or joined, please go to courthouseplayers.org/membership for a membership form.

For questions, please contact Missy Polonsky, Membership Chair, at 804-693-4434.

Membership rates:

Individual membership: \$15/year

Family membership: \$25/year

Students: \$10/year

JJ Brazil and Shawn Jaeger skillfully play a game of mutual seduction as they portray long-lost lovers Muriel and Jesse in Act II. New to Gloucester and CHP, Brazil is a graduate of the University of Southern California and has appeared on numerous stages throughout the U.S., from portraying Ginger Rogers in the premiere musical *Ginger and Me* to various roles in multiple Shakespeare productions. She has television credits in shows as wide-ranging as *Two and a Half Men* and *Nashville*. Look for her as the female lead in the 2015 feature film *The Secret Handshake*. Jaeger, who has performed with CHP since *Little Mary Sunshine* in 1999, most recently portrayed Mr. Northbrook in 2015's *Mary Poppins*. An accomplished handyman who has been renovating the family home, he pays the bills by working as a salesman and technician for Ecolab.

Norma and Roy Hubley are played with raucous hilarity by Lara Emerson and RJ Erickson in Act III. Emerson has been an active member of CHP since she first joined as a behind-the-scenes homeschool mom, but she has exercised her own considerable acting chops in such recent productions as *Sister Act* and *Bus Stop*. A woman of many talents, she and five of her

seven children built the entire set for this spring's *Blithe Spirit*, and she will be making her directorial debut this fall with *Oliver!* She is also CHP's new president. Erickson first appeared with CHP in last year's production of *Bus Stop*, but he is no stranger to the stage, having performed in both high school and college productions, including *L'il Abner* and *Heaven Can Wait*. He puts bread on the table by working in information technology, most recently with the U.S. Department of Defense.

The *Plaza Suite* cast is rounded out with delightful performances by Becky Hogge as Jean McCormack, Lexzi Wright as the bellhop, Ashton Emerson as Mimsey Hubley, and Tristan Emerson as the waiter and Bordon Eisler.

Peyton Emerson is the show's stage manager, assistant to the directors, and official memory keeper. The show is produced by Lynn Jaeger with the assistance of Trey Shinault and Sherry Hamilton. The set was designed by John Dempsey with contributions from the other directors, and built by John Dempsey. George Rhodes and Don Parker are providing lighting and sound. Costumes are by Anne Rhodes and cast members, with props and set dressing by Elizabeth Roane, Anita Minuth, cast and crew.

Neil Simon's PLAZA SUITE

August 1-4

The Church of St. Therese
6262 Main Street, Gloucester

Dinner Theater:

August 1-3 at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$30 in advance only;
group rates available

Dinner menu:

Artisan Romaine Salad
Chicken Roulade
Cavatelli Primavera Alfredo
Five-Texture Chocolate Cake
Vegetarian alternative by
request in advance.

Show Only:

August 4 at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$17 adults in advance;
\$18 at the door; \$5 students

Tickets available at these outlets:

Gloucester:

Office Supply (804-693-4155)
Golden Creations (804-642-1458)
Franktronics (804-642-5233)

Mathews:

Mathews Pharmacy (804-725-2556)
Flowers From the Heart (804-725-3020)

Tickets also available via PayPal at
courthouseplayers.org

For more information,
call 804-815-8504 or
[visit courthouseplayers.org](http://visit.courthouseplayers.org)

Where are they now? Lucas Bohn

Lucas Bohn grew up with The Court House Players. As one of the Bohn-Dittmeier clan, he knew what it was to perform, and he cut his teeth on shows directed by Dick Lusher and Kitty Witty.

But what he really loved to do was to tell jokes and make people laugh, so he naturally turned to stand-up comedy as his modus operandi, developing routines that could be performed in front of any audience.

Dubbed a "clean comedian," Lucas often does a multimedia routine that includes impersonations of Muppet characters and jokes about friends, family, and famous people. He's now been a professional comedian for 17 years, performing in comedy clubs,



theaters, colleges, schools, on cruise ships, at corporate functions, or in private venues nationally and internationally. "Lesson Plans to Late Night" is one of his most popular and well-known comedy shows.

In his first foray into major network television, Lucas won a slot on NBC's

new comedy competition show "Bring the Funny," which aired for the first time on Tuesday, July 9, on NBC and is slated to run throughout the summer. Hosted by comedienne Amanda Seales and judged by Chrissy Teigen, Jeff Foxworthy, and Kenan Thompson, the show airs on Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. CHP members and supporters can catch him when the variety act division competition airs.

Lucas, his lovely wife Kristie, and their beautiful children Ellianna, 4, and Xander, 6 months, live in Northern Virginia.

To keep up with Lucas, visit his website, lucasbohn.com or his Facebook fan page, facebook.com/comiclucasbohn.

Remembering Tom Witty

As members of The Court House Players family and friends, we, extremely sadly, miss Tom Witty, who left us on Palm Sunday, April 14. We remember with great affection and huge gratitude one of our greatest troupers.

Dr. Witty retired from his dentistry practice only 5 years ago. He was always involved with, above all else, his family, but also with his church, The Church of St. Therese; his Irish musical group, Celtastrophe; his volunteer work, Bread for Life food pantry; his talented master woodworking projects; and so many hobbies and interests.

But then, Tom also danced, sang and built his debut onto our stage way back in the 1989 production of *Guys and Dolls* (dragged to auditions by his thespian wife, Kitty!). To Kitty's chagrin, Tom got a speaking role, she didn't! Needless to say, there were many more women than men who auditioned!!

Thankfully, from that first production until a year ago, when ill health forced him to do less, the couple became dynamic, active participants, leaders and helpers in The Court House Players—a wonderful team together.

Tom tirelessly built, installed, struck, and transported sets (often in the trailer the Wittys bought specially for that use) for most of the subsequent shows during the following nearly 30 years, always with his wonderfully kind, gentle and giving personality.

Tom was the epitome of a great Player. He undertook ALL aspects of the theater group with such grace and good humor, from the underestimated work behind the scenes to the hard earned glory in front of the curtain—a truly inspirational and beautiful, talented friend, beloved by so many.

We miss you terribly but find comfort in your legacy.

—Meryl Lusher Clarke



*Tom was also frequently persuaded (often by his wife, Kitty!) to appear ON the sets he created—hence this photo, from the previous production of *Plaza Suite in 2,000*, as Jesse Kiplinger, playing opposite Lori (Gray) Woolman. Photo courtesy Meryl Clarke.*



*In 2017, Tom played Monsignor O'Hara with his real-life leading lady, Kitty as Mother Superior in *Sister Act*. Photo by Shari Sullivan.*

Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

The Court House Players annual meeting and election of officers was held Sunday, June 30 at the Gloucester DAV Hall.

Amanda Adams and Karen Hutchens will continue in their positions as recording secretary and vice president. Lara Emerson was elected president.

A big note of thanks to Suzanne Smith for her service as president and Clay Roy for his year as treasurer. Clay has moved to North Carolina, and Chuck Crook will be completing Clay's term.

“Consider yourself one of us!”

**The Court House Players
will hold
AUDITIONS**



Saturday, August 3, 1–4 p.m.
Ware Episcopal Church Parish Hall
7825 John Clayton Memorial Highway, Gloucester

Men, women and children of all ages and vocal ranges are needed.
Also needed: special talents such as jugglers, tumblers and dancers.

Please bring a karaoke CD or sheet music for accompaniment.

No a cappella auditions permitted.

Dress comfortably to move, and be prepared to read from the script.

Show dates are November 14–17 at Mathews High School.

For more information, call 904-887-0614 or 804-654-9765.

Check it out...

CHP's website has a brand-new look, complete with up-to-date show information and audition notices, photo layouts and slide shows of current and past productions, and the ability to purchase tickets online via the PayPal app (PayPal membership is not required)

Check it out at courthouseplayers.org

*Thank you to contributors
Sherry Hamilton, Meryl Lusher,
and Karen Hutchins.
Production editor: Anne Rhodes*



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**LOOK INSIDE FOR
THESE UPCOMING
EVENTS!**

**PLAZA SUITE
AUGUST 1-4**

**OLIVER! AUDITIONS
AUGUST 3**