

**STERLING PLAYMAKERS  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, September 7, 2021**

**Board Members Present**

Julia Braxton	Barbara Gillen
Shanna Christian	Angela Hepola
Jim Bowen-Collinson	Ellen Price
Bill Fry	Tim Silk
Kim Fry	

**Board Members Absent**

Aubry Fisher  
Eric Fisher  
John Geddie  
Rachel Veal

**Guests Present**

Mary Abbott	Helen Gernhardt
Lauren Baker	Mark Humphrey
Kathy Bleutge	Johnathan Mulberg
Lora Buckman	Liz Mykietyn
Joe Campanella	Don O'Brien
Terry DiMurro	Sue O'Brien
Keith Flores	Scott Ruegg
Sally Flores	

**Call to Order/Opening Comments**

Chairman Kim Fry called the annual meeting of the Sterling Playmakers at 7:38. She encouraged those assembled to ask the Board any questions they may have.

**Recognition of Current Board of Directors**

Kim recognized the current Board of Directors. Kim recognized and thanked Board members Julia Braxton, Shanna Christian, Jim Bowen-Collinson, Aubry Fisher, Eric Fisher, Bill Fry, Kim Fry, Barbara Gillen, John Geddie, Angela Hepola, Ellen Price, Tim Silk, and Rachael Veal for all the hard work this past year. She thanked Rachael Veal, who is not re-running for the Board, for the three-year term she served.

**Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting**

The minutes from the 2019-2020 Annual Membership Meeting was presented to the membership at the sign-in table. The minutes were approved by the Board at the October 2020 meeting.

**Treasurer's Annual Report**

The annual financial statement for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, was presented to the membership at the sign-in table. It showed total income of \$38,154.17, total expenses of \$40,031.03 with an ending balance as of 06/30/2021 of \$94,211.12 and a current balance as of 08/31/2021 of \$90,207.83. Jim stated that live theater during the last year during the pandemic was challenging. He said the Playmakers received a grant from Rebuild Virginia of approximately \$9,200. Jim used funds received to purchase hand sanitizers, masks, cleaning products, etc. available to the cast, crew and audience.

## REVIEW OF 2020-2021 SEASON

### ***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (Performances: February 2021) Director- Rachel Veal/Producer - Aubry Fisher**

Rachel and Aubry were not at the annual meeting. Kim read an email from Rachel Veal. She wrote as a first-time director for the Playmakers, I partnered with Aubry Fisher as Producer, Darlene Veal-Salvator as AD. Shanna Christian as Consulting Producer, Helen Gernhardt as PSM and Judith Hartman as Artistic Director to deliver *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* during the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 80 auditionees, with 25 being cast. Twenty were new to the Playmakers. The production was delivered via Zoom. The cast devised their set, costumes, hair, makeup and props from their homes, with guidance from the creative team. The blocking leveraged unique camera angles to bring dimensions to the zoom performance. The cast worked well together, and the show received great reviews. There were 67 live single household tickets, 79 live multi-person household tickets, and 71 pre-recorded tickets sold generating a profit of \$3,610.74. A recording of the show can be viewed on the Sterling Playmakers YouTube page.

### ***The Laramie Project* (Performances: June 2021) – Director - John Geddie/Co-Producers - Kathy Bleutge and Lora Buckman**

Kathy reported that John could not be at the meeting due to health reasons. This is the first live show for the Playmakers since the pandemic started. She said there were a lot of challenges. The early rehearsals were conducted online. Upon moving into the school there was space limitations as the school was storing a lot of items on the stage. The cast and crew had to clear the stage every night before rehearsing. There were performances at Franklin Park and two weekends at Sterling Middle School. The play was presented during Gay Pride Month. Kathy said it was an outstanding cast and had good audiences. The show was an artistic and financial success. A total of 279 tickets were sold and there was a profit of \$1,294.94.

### ***Godspell* (Performances: July/August 2021) – Director - Jim Bowen-Collinson/Producer - Kimberly Fry**

Jim said the 2012 edition of the play was performed. He said the cast was great. There were 13 actors with some double casting. Half of the cast were returning Playmakers and half were new members. The show lost the middle weekend performances due to work being done that weekend at Potomac Falls High School. The production maintained the normal nine performances and split performances between the first and third weekends to make up for the blackout dates the second weekend. Kim thanked all the sponsors but specially highlighted to the membership the support of the Sterling Outback Steakhouse who provided 25 meals free for the cast and crew on the Saturday during the second weekend of performances. A total of 739 people were in the audiences over all the performances. The production created a professional video recording of the show and has been streaming it online since August. There will be streaming performances available for two more weeks as follows:

- Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Sundays at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

### ***On That Note* – Director - Ellen Price/Producer - Tim Silk**

Ellen said the group has been on hiatus. OTN will perform at SterlingFest in October. The group will perform during the holidays.

### ***WSPR* – Co-Directors - Terri DiMurro and Don O'Brien/Producer - Gregg Carter**

Don reported the group did not perform last year. He said WSPR will perform on November 14 at 6:30 at Franklin Park's Coffee Series. There is a maximum of 45 people in the audience. Don said tickets can be ordered online.

**Raffle package #1 -Winner** – Sue O'Brien - \$25 Gift Card to various restaurants

## **BUSINESS ITEMS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Introduction of Candidates for Board/Balloting**

Kim introduced candidates for the four positions opened on the Board. They are Jim Bowen-Collinson, Barbara Gillen, and Angela Helpola. Each candidate addressed the membership about why they would like to be elected to the Sterling Playmakers Board of Directors. There were only three candidates for the four open positions. Kim asked anyone interested in being on the Board to email her at Board@sterlingplaymakers.org.

A motion was made to closed nominations and to accept the slate of candidates by acclamation.  
Motion passed.

### **Community Center Report**

No report was given. The Community Center has had limited hours due to COVID-19. Nick Wilt has moved to a new position as manager at Lovettesville Community Center.

### **SterlingFest**

Barbara report that SterlingFest will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 9 at the Sterling Community Center in Sterling. The Playmakers have a table at the event every year. Barbara said that volunteers are needed to man the table during the event. A sheet was available for volunteers to sign-up to assist with the event. The event is a time to introduce the Playmakers to the community and advertise our upcoming season.

## **Board Member Initiatives - Diversity & Inclusion and Theatre Reopening**

### **Diversity & Inclusion – Shanna Christian**

Shanna said the Diversity & Inclusion committee’s goal is to determine ways to welcome new members and making our organization inclusive to all regardless of race, gender, size, etc.

### **Theatre Reopening - Jim Bowen-Collinson**

Jim said Theatre Reopening was a subcommittee to the Season Development Committee. He said it resulted from the need to develop a plan for live theatre to deal with COVID-19. The subcommittee created a living document which was updated when any new ordnance come out from the CDC and Governor. The COVID Compliance Officer for was created to make sure requirements like cleaning, masks are worn, temperature is taken, etc. during rehearsals and performances with cast, crew and audiences, where appropriate. There is a Compliance Officer assigned to each production.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Information Technology (IT) - Aubry Fisher/Rachel Veal**

Kim read an email from Rachel Veal. Rachel wrote that the IT committee maintained the new website that launched last year. The website was regularly updated to share audition information, show details, and organizational announcements. The committee also set up a new online payment platform leveraging GiveLively. This reduced the transaction fees incurred for ticket sales and donations. She gave a special thank you to Tim Silk and Shanna Christian for their support keeping the website updated.

### **Membership - Julia Braxton/Shanna Christian**

Shanna said the focus of the Membership Committee were activities that gave value to being a member of the Playmakers. Examples were the virtual *Jeopardy* game, String bags in honor of our 25<sup>th</sup> season, virtual drop in dinners and the first picnic since the pandemic.

### **Outreach - John Geddie/Tim Silk**

Tim said the goals of the Outreach Committee is *Entertain, Educate, Connect, and Uplift*. He said the Playmakers joined WATCH. John has connected with Franklin Park. Tim is in touch with faculty at Park View High School, Loudoun County High School, Potomac Falls High School and Dominion High School. Tim said the committee is looking into joining the Dulles Chamber of Commerce. He said that the Playmakers are in partnership with the Loudoun Parks and Rec. This partnership allows the Playmakers to use the schools and community centers at a great savings. He reminded the group that our motto is *Theater by the Community for the Entire Community*. He said one of the things the group participates in is SterlingFest. Barbara Gillen attends the meetings and helps with the planning. She is the Playmakers liaison with the Sterling Community Center Advisory Board, serving on the Board. Tim said for 2021/2022 the committee focus will be on what can we do with and for the community.

### **Publicity -Aubry Fisher/Angela Hepola**

Angela said they are looking forward to getting back out and doing live theatre. She said Kathy Bleutge works with *The Guide to the Lively Arts*, Joe Campanella oversees bulk mailing and Shanna Christian manages social media. Angela said the Season Brochure is on hold as they are waiting to see how everything goes with COVID-19.

### **Season Development - Jim Bowen-Collinson/Ellen Price**

Jim said the committee will be looking into presenting workshops. Workshops are opportunities to provide training on various aspects of theater, such as costuming, makeup and stage combat. Jim said the committee used a hybrid model this year for season selection. The season was selected with shows that were suggested by the directors applying for the season. The shows for the 2021/2022 season are as follows:

- *The Social Secretary* (Performances: October 2021)
- *Catch Me If You Can* (Performances: November 2021)
- *Dirty Work Afoot* (Performance: Spring 2022)
- *Ragtime: The Musical* (Performances: July/August 2022)
- *Raisin In the Sun* (Pre-Chosen for 2023 Season)

### **Technical - Eric Fisher/Bill Fry**

Bill said the committee is responsible for all the material and equipment the Playmakers own and the warehouse. He said the AC was currently repaired. Bill said the costume manager stepped down. He is looking for a Costume Manager to oversee the Costume Shop. He asked that anyone interested in being the Costume Manager or helping or know someone who may be interested to contact him. Bill manages the lights and sets, Joe Campanella oversees the props and the Display Boards and Eric Fisher manages the sound. The committee provides tech support for all the productions.

### **Ways & Means -Kimberly Fry/Barbara Gillen**

Kim said the committee applied and received the Rebuild Virginia Grant for \$9,164 from the state of Virginia. The difficulty with many of the grants was they had a lot of restrictions. She said the organization only had to touch savings a little during the past year to help cover operating expenses while the theater was shut down.

### **Donor Program Final Report**

The final Donor Program report was available at the front table. The report shows that the Playmakers have 99 household members. Total donations received during the 2020/2021 season was \$7,372.44.

### **Raffle package #2 -Winner – Mark Humphrey - \$25 Amazon Gift Card**

## **PREVIEW OF 2021-2022 SEASON**

### ***The Social Secretary* (Performances: October 2021) – Director - Ellen Price/Producer - Lora Buckman**

Ellen said the play is an original script. She said they had great turnout for auditions and they filled the 30 roles. The two leads are new to the Playmakers.

### ***Catch Me If You Can* (Performances: November 2021) – Director - Shanna Christian/Producers - Lauren Baker and Angela Hepola**

Shanna said there was a good turnout for auditions. She said the cast is great. The musical is based on the true story of Frank Abangale who posed as a pilot, doctor and prosecutor. He later worked with the FBI to help stop bank fraud and check forgery.

### ***Dirty Work Afoot* (Performance: Spring 2022) – Director - Terry DiMurro**

Terry said this is a Melodrama. It is about a girl who works as a maid for a wealthy family and a man who is trying to marry the daughter of the wealthy family. The play will include Olivo acts, which can be songs, skits, etc. There will also be breaks when advertisements such as the following scene is being sponsored by Pizza Hut.

### ***Ragtime: The Musical* (Performances: July/August 2022) – Director - Jonathan Mulberg**

Johnathan said the play is set in New York City at the turn of the century. It involves a wealthy family, a Jewish family, and a family from Harlem. He said Version 1 is being performed that has a large orchestra.

### ***On That Note* - Director - Ellen Price/Producer - Tim Silk**

Ellen said the group is rehearsing for the 2022 season. They are preparing for some holiday performances.

### **WSPR – Co-Directors - Terri DiMurro and Don O'Brien/Producer - Gregg Carter**

Don said they have had to be flexible in what they perform. Due to COVID-19 the group has not been able to perform at the community centers or the senior centers.

**Raffle package #3 -Winner** – Kathy Bleutge - \$25 Fandango Gift Card

## **Report on the Election Results**

Kim reviewed the election results that were voted on in the motion at the beginning of the meeting to accept the nominations by acclamation. Jim Bowen-Collinson, Barbara Gillen, and Angela Helpola were elected to a three-year term to the Board of Directors.

## **Announcements/Adjournment**

Kim told those assembled that two documents were at the front table. One was descriptions of the various committees on the Board and the roles and responsibilities of each one. The second document is the 2021-2022 Committee Interest Form. Kim asked those gathered that if they were interested to serve on one of the committees to indicate on the interest form. If you have any questions about committees, please ask any board member. Kim reminded board members to fill out an interest form, and rank committee chair level of interest from 1-3. Board Interest Forms can be filled out now or sent electronically to Kim.

Kim reminded those in attendance that the next Board meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., Location: TBD

The Annual Membership meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.