

Gateway Players Theatre,  
Inc.  
PO Box 171  
Southbridge, MA 01550

founded 1975

April 2024  
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### **A Message to our loyal fans**

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It's April! A new Ed Humphries play- youth workshops- scholarship applications available- and planning gets underway for our 50th season!! We are looking for YOUR support.

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### **GATEWAY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY- COMING NEXT YEAR**

A meeting to brainstorm our 50th anniversary celebration will be held Tuesday, May 14 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church. All are invited to attend this planning meeting to share ideas and suggestions. It is truly remarkable for an all-volunteer organization to continue to serve the community for half a century. Even though members have come and gone, the mission to bring theater to the community and provide a learning experience for our youth continues after all these years. Please share this meeting date to all who may be interested- or were members years ago. We welcome ideas from everyone.

Below is the Gateway Arts Barn at 111 Main St. Our home from 1978 until 2018 when needed repairs forced us to relocate. The barn was our home for 40 years- so many fond memories.





## Death by Chocolate

Many thanks to cast and crew for a splendid production. The audience loved it. Thanks too to the youth servers who made the dessert evening so much fun. Congratulations all.



## PAINT AND SIP NIGHT

The group attending Paint and Sip Night had a great time- see below. Thanks Simone Gemain for a terrific program. It was so much fun- we plan to do it

again. Look for future sign up, and don't miss out on this FUN raiser.



## TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR "OFF SHE GOES"

Gateway Players Theatre presents "Off She Goes" by Sturbridge playwright Ed Humphries. Performances will be held on May 3 & 4 at 7:30pm, May 5 at 2pm, and May 10 & 11 at 7:30pm. All performances will be held at the Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street in Southbridge. Parking is available on Elm Street, or in the parking deck behind the Southbridge Town Hall. This production will be directed by Ed Humphries, produced by David Corkum, and the stage manager is Gwen O'Brien. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://www.ticketleap.events/.../gateway.../off-she-goes>

The cast includes: Lynn Boucher (Ellie), Linda Bouthillier (Anna), Tey Gallipeau (Young Ellie), Eric Hart (Arthur), Jordan Miller (Clark), Mikey Dearn (Jackson), Stephen Jean (Michael), Samantha Raynoso (Corinne) and Sean Nault (Peter).

### Synopsis:

"Off She Goes" is a comedy/drama about a British war bride, Ellie - who after saying goodbye to her husband of 60 years, moves into an assisted living community - assuming she'll just mark time until her own time comes. But

fate has other plans for her when she meets her new roommate, Anna - also a British war bride who came to the States after the war and finds she shares a surprising connection with Ellie. As Ellie flashes back to the pivotal moments of her life - the two women form a friendship and come to realize that while they may never have gone home again, maybe home has finally come back to them.  
Below are rehearsal photos.



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## Mary Darling Maestaz presents :

Museful Intent & The Co-Op at Fortunato Court are proud to present the world premiere of Mary Darling's newest play *Average Hospital*. In this 1980s soap opera comedy, several people find themselves in a highly redundant cycle of betrayal, infidelity, and life-threatening medical circumstances. The run time is 60 minutes without an intermission & after the show, we invite you to hang back for a low-key cocktail social hour! We also invite you to dust off your 80s clothes and hairstyles and wear them because...this show takes place in the late 80s.

*This play includes strong language and ridiculously suggestive sexual overtones, therefore it is not suitable for children.*

Written and Directed by Mary Darling

Cast Includes: Vivian Nichols, Marta Rigano, Brian Zakrajsek, Elijah Lidonde, Angela Fleming, William Bolster, Patrick Bracken, Jim Douglas

Stage Management - Kyle Hargrove and Cassie Tortorici; Director of Photography - Mikey Maestaz

\*Please note that this venue is not 100% ADA-compliant at this time

\*Parking is available onsite & the show entrance is in the parking lot.

for tickets: [www.simplenetix.com/e/mary-darlings-average-hospital-tickets](http://www.simplenetix.com/e/mary-darlings-average-hospital-tickets).

Mary has appeared in several Gateway productions. You may remember a few pre-Covid years ago, Mary served as MC for the evening of 10 minute plays we performed at Starlite in Southbridge. This cast also includes some familiar Gateway actors.

Mary is a very busy playwright- she recently conducted a youth workshop for Gateway and one of her 10 minute plays will be performed in the Fresh Fruit Festival (New York city).

**10-MINUTE PLAYS Contest, Part 3: The Finals! Sunday 5/5 at Noon. All Tickets \$15**

Our March competitions gave us 8 finalists who now compete for the top prizes!

Details:

- Searching for the Gays – by Monika Orzelowski
- YOU + ME: An Exploration of Deceased Identities and Falling In Love In Spite of It – by Mattie Tindall
- Caged – by Drew Keil
- **A Very Public, Very Family Friendly Park Bench – by Mary Darling**
- Like The Sea – by Raine Grayson
- For Sale By Owner by – Sam Turlington
- Grave Offense – by Lenny Hort
- Doctor Truth – by Sam Affoumado

For tickets- [freshfruitfestival.com](http://freshfruitfestival.com)



## YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Since 1998 Gateway Players has been awarding a scholarship to a college bound senior, active in Gateway, both on stage and behind the scenes. Applications are available by contacting Pat Haddock at anTpooh33@aol.com. The \$500 scholarship is paid for 2nd semester of freshman year. The application awards points for work at Gateway, community and school service and includes an essay. For more information, contact Pat.

Gateway awards the Bill Mastro Memorial Scholarship each year to a college bound senior as a way of encouraging the arts among our youth and rewarding Gateway youth members for their hard work and support.

Scholarships have been awarded to:

Rebecca Lambrecht- 1998... Scott Metras and Dawn Guy- 1999... Susan Day- 2000...

Christopher Mullen- 2001... Mark Lammert- 2002... Allison Reed—2003...

Lissa Wilson- 2004... Ruby Pontbriand- 2006... Tyler Morrill- 2007...

Shelby Morrill—2009... Shawn Corkum- 2010... Matthew Brady-2011...

Nathan Ferron-2012... Cheyenne Grenier- 2014... Mikayla O'Brien-2016...

Jessica Gelineau- 2017... Sydney Campbell- 2018... Elise Dinbergs- 2020... Anjolina Fantaroni- 2022.

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## YOUTH WORKSHOPS-- there is still time to join acting workshop, Sat, April 20.

Actor's Workshop- Saturday April 20th 10am – noon – Pat Haddock and Lou-Ellen Corkum, Gateway Players directors, will lead this workshop.

This will be for interested youths to learn various acting techniques such as: auditioning, facial expression, memorization, stage positioning, and other general acting techniques. At the end of this workshop participants will perform a selection from a chosen play.

Cost per workshop is \$10 when paid in advance by mailing a check to Gateway Players, PO Box 171, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by Venmo to @lou-ellen-corkum. If paying at the door (space available) the cost will be \$15.

## YOUTH THEATER PERFORMANCE aka

***"8 days to curtain" OR "on the 8<sup>th</sup> day we created a fabulous show!"***

In March and April we held workshops for youths interested in writing or directing their own show. Now we are ready to put their talents to work, writing and/or directing a show written in 2 days! Of course each show needs actors so we will be holding auditions on May 17<sup>th</sup> and the writer and director will choose their cast. Sounds like fun?!

Based on the number of interested writers, we will know how many shows will be performed. The theme for all shows will be announced at the auditions. Each show will be between 10 to 15 minutes in length.

The audition, rehearsal, and production schedule for the performances will go like this:

**Day 1: Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm** – auditions for short shows to be written by our writers. This evening all those interested in acting in one of our youth-written shows will audition in front of the writers and directors. After the auditions, the writers and directors along with their adult mentor will choose who they would like to use in their individual productions.

**Days 2 & 3: Saturday (May 18<sup>th</sup>) to Sunday (May 19<sup>th</sup>)** – writers will have these 2 days to write their show and review it with their adult mentor. The Writer and Director and their show mentor will have Monday and Tuesday (Days 4-5) to decide how they want to block their show and any props needed.

**Day 6: Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 6-8pm** – This evening each show's Director

and Writer will be given a rehearsal time, approximately 45 minutes, to work with their actors.

**Days 7: Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 6-8pm** – additional rehearsals times will be scheduled as needed.

**Day 8: Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 7pm** – Performance night! All short plays will be performed for our audience. Please come out to support our creative and talented youth!

For further information contact Lou-Ellen Corkum at lcorkum14@gmail.com

Below are the participants in the clowning workshop held a few years ago.



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Pictured below: Rocky Horror Show (2018) performed at Cannery Hall at 12 Crane St in Southbridge; 100 Lunches (2017); Monkeybar Mafia (2023 version); Honk (2004) youth production; Cover of Life (2017); Charley's Aunt (2017); Barefoot in the Park (2020) last production pre Covid pandemic.











Gateway Players Theatre Board:

Lou-Ellen Corkum-- president, Mike Dupuis- vice-president,  
Chris McTigue- secretary, Bill Guy- treasurer.

Members at large- David Corkum, Mikey Dearn, Deb Hollett  
Stephen Jean, Stephanie Ruggiere.

Pat Haddock- past president.

#### GATEWAY PLAYERS THEATRE, INC. HISTORY

If you would like to see a listing of ALL the shows Gateway has performed since 1975- just go to website, [gatewayplayers.org](http://gatewayplayers.org) under Past Seasons. You will even find photos from many of the shows. When Gateway started in 1975, we used borrowed rehearsal and storage space, and performed at Southbridge HS on Cole Ave. In 1978 we moved into the Arts Barn at 111 Main St, on the property donated by Ruth Wells (of American Optical Company family). We were there for decades, until the Barn needed more repairs than were affordable. For the past few years, we have used space in Fellowship Hall of Elm St. for rehearsals, performances and storage, for which we are very grateful.



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