

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

founded 1975

February 2024
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A Message to our loyal fans

February kicks off Season 49 with a murder mystery, a new play by Ed Humphries, youth theater workshop- and a paint & sip fundraiser. Something for everyone. Don't forget to make your reservations- you don't want to miss all these fun and creative events.



Gateway Players Theatre is excited to kick off Season 2024 with "Death by Chocolate" by Paul Freed. Directed by Mikey Dearn and produced by Eric Hart, with stage manager Erin Morin, this is sure to be an entertaining opening of our 49th season!

Showdates are Feb 23, 24. March 1,2,3 at Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street in Southbridge. Entrance is the front door on Park Street. There is a handicap ramp from the parking area behind the Southbridge Town Hall (Elm ST.). Showtimes are 7:30pm Fridays and Saturdays. The Sunday matinee is at 2pm. Tickets are \$18-\$15. Reservations may be made by calling 508 764 4531.

Online credit card ticket sales are available at:

<https://gateway-players.ticketleap.com/deathbychocolate>

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On Saturday, Feb 24, we are offering dessert theater for \$25. Along with a terrific show, there will be deserts and beverages served for a special evening. Be sure to get your tickets early.

The cast includes Jennifer Stockdale (Lady Riverdale), Patrick Bracken (John Stone), Bridgette Bachand (Dyslexia), Stephen Jean (Alfred Mellox), Greg Glanville (Ralph Deadwood). Tey Gallipeau (Margaret Daniels), Peter Amara (Dick Simmering). Deb Hollett (Sweet Pea Meadowbrook), Cassidy Shaw (Nurse Anne), Deb Ostiguy (Edith Chiles), Matthew Sedlier (Ed Parlor), Dawn Sedlier (Resort Host/Phone Voices).

Plot:

People are dropping like flies at the Meadowbrook Health Resort on the eve of its grand reopening after the suicide of owner Henry Meadowbrook. It is up to the new manager, John Stone, to find the cause and the murderer before the press does. With its dramatic twists and rapid fire humor *Death by Chocolate* will satisfy murder mystery lovers as well as comedy fans.



PAINT AND SIP NIGHT

Join us for this fun fundraiser for Gateway Players Theatre. March 8th at 6:30pm at Fortunato Court, 21 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA. Simone Germain will be leading us in a fun painting project. Cost is \$35 per person and includes instruction and all art supplies. Tickets are available online at <https://gateway-players.ticketleap.com/paint-and-sip...> or call 508-764-4531. Tickets must be purchased in advance so that we know how many supplies will be needed. Please bring your beverage of choice with you.



CAST SELECTED FOR "OFF SHE GOES" BY ED HUMPHRIES

Directed by Ed Humphries with producer David Corkum and stage manager Gwen O'Brien, this new play is the latest by Ed. Show dates are May 3, 4, 5, 10 & 11.

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.

YOUTH WORKSHOPS-- STARTING THIS MONTH

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.

To sign up for any of the three workshops, please go to the following link. <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdBBjrYaYS.../viewform...>

In May we will give all participants the chance to showcase their skills with our "8 Days to Curtain" performance. You do not have to attend any of the previous workshops in order to participate. More information on this event will be posted in the near future.

Below are the participants in the director's workshop led by Miriam Sas.



Many thanks to the Southbridge Cultural Council, a part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. We have received two 2024 grants. "Alice @ Wonderland" (\$800) and "Jimmy Buffet Escape to Margaritaville" (\$1500). Thanks to this support, Gateway can continue to offer entertainment at a reasonable price for our audiences.



Pictured below: "Steel Magnolias" (2012), "Apple Tree", "Everything's Relative" and "On Golden Pond" (all 2013- a VERY busy season!), and (Inspecting Carol) (2014) and "The Heiress" (2011).





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 Howllett
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 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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