

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

founded 1975

November, 2024

Barbara Day, editor
since 1991



50 years- how exciting for an all-volunteer, non-profit organization! We are very proud to be part of a vibrant community, bringing live entertainment and performing opportunities. Please join us as we celebrate a long history of theater and fun. Also- be sure to see the final production of 2024, Alice @ Wonderland.



Gateway Players Theatre presents "Alice @ Wonderland". Book by Jonathan Yukich, music by Bill Francoeur, lyrics by Scott Deturk, additional lyrics by Bill Francoeur. Based on the works of Lewis Carroll, performances are on Thursday, December 5th at 7pm, Friday, December 6th at 7pm, Saturday, December 7th at 7pm, and Sunday, December 8th at 2pm. The performances are held at Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street in Southbridge, MA. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Directed by Lou-Ellen Corkum, produced by Stephanie Ruggiere with music director Chris Rubenacker.

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 <http://www.ticketleap.events/.../gateway.../alice-wonderland> Presented by permission through special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, this program is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Synopsis: The folly of the 21st century collides with the madness of Wonderland in this rockin' musical adaptation that remains fairly faithful to Lewis Carroll's original tale. The twist? Alice is a texting, tweeting, and Googling girl of the modern digital era, yet she finds herself in the Wonderland of old. With all of the characters you know and love

including the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, and the Queen of Hearts, this musical imagines a present-day Alice encountering the Wonderland so many of us treasure. Meanwhile, the younger generation will appreciate and relate to the many references to texting and social networking. The contemporary sounding new score by beloved composer Bill Francoeur and lyricist Scott DeTurk will delight all. A sharply told, crisply paced ride, this quality adaptation has been praised for its humor, artistic modern style, and appeal to both children and adults.

The cast includes Lily Ruggiere (Alice), Brooke Swistak (White Rabbit), Linda Bouthillier (Queen of Hearts), Jayden Woodworth (Caterpillar), Norah Stern (Frog-Newsie), Lila Mazzone (Fish-Newsie), Mila Fors (Cheshire Cat 1), Reilly Ireland (Cheshire Cat 2), Asher McCoy (Mad Hatter), Finn Mazzone (March Hare), Jackson Reed (Door Mouse, Door 3), Claire Albuquerque (Tweedledum), Daphne Peculis (Tweedledee), Ducati Sedlier (Humpty Dumpty), Billy Bolster (King of Hearts), Indira Fors (Door One, KK Chorus), Maritza Cordero (Tiny Door), Alaina French (Lily, KK Chorus), Elise Servant (Rose), Chris McTigue (Daisy), Rylie Larcheveque (Violet), Xaze Reyes (Queen's Guards One), Cole Benoit (Queen's Guards Two), Alex Holt (King's Man), Amora Mello (KK Chorus), Ava Nicholas (KK Chorus), Devyn Montello (KK Chorus), Taylor French (KK Chorus), and Emilia Lamothe (chorus).



UPCOMING AUDITIONS-- 50TH SEASON



Gateway Players Theatre is hosting auditions for "Plaza Suite", the first show of our 50th Anniversary Season. This comedy is written by Neil Simon. Auditions will be held on Sunday, December 1st and Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00PM. PLEASE NOTE that the auditions will be held in the Community Room of the Southbridge Police Station, 1 Mechanic St, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Performance dates are February 21, 22, 28 and March 1 & 2. Rehearsals will be on Sunday and Tuesday nights. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. The adult cast consists of five women and 7 men and is directed by Mike Dupuis and produced by Jeanne Dupuis. For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-764-4531.

Synopsis:

Hilarity abounds in this portrait of three couples successively occupying a suite at The Plaza. A suburban couple 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? This wry tale of marriage in tatters is followed by the exploits of a Hollywood producer who, after three marriages, is looking for fresh fields. He calls a childhood sweetheart, now a suburban housewife, for a little sexual diversion. Over the years she has idolized him from afar and is now more than the match he bargained for. The last couple is a mother and father fighting about the best way to get their daughter out of the bathroom and down to the ballroom where guests await her or as Mother yells, "I want you to come out of that bathroom and get married!"

50th Season-- our exciting plans

EXCITING NEWS!! 2025 marks Gateway Players Theatre 50th Anniversary. Since 1975, we have performed over 250 shows. For our 50th Anniversary season, we have chosen five shows that we had already performed over the past 50 years for our 2025 Season. In addition to this year's performances, we will also be holding several special events to commemorate our anniversary. More news about those in the near future!

"Plaza Suite" February 21, 22, 28 and March 1 & 2

Hilarity abounds in this portrait of three couples successively occupying a suite at The Plaza. A suburban couple 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? This wry tale of marriage in tatters is followed by the exploits of a Hollywood producer who, after three marriages, is looking for fresh fields. He calls a childhood sweetheart, now a suburban housewife, for a little sexual diversion. Over the years she has idolized him from afar and is now more than the match he bargained for. The last couple is a mother and father fighting about the best way to get their daughter out of the bathroom and down to the ballroom where guests await her or as Mother yells, "I want you to come out of that bathroom and get married!"

Written by Neil Simon. Directed by Mike Dupuis. Adult Cast.

"On Golden Pond" May 2, 3, 4, 9 & 10.

This is the love story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, who are returning to their summer home on Golden Pond for the forty-eighth year. He is a retired professor, nearing eighty, with heart palpitations and a failing memory—but still as tart-tongued, observant, and eager for life as ever. Ethel, ten years younger, and the perfect foil for Norman, delights in all the small things that have enriched and continue to enrich their long life together. They are visited by their divorced, middle-aged daughter and her dentist fiancé, who then go off to Europe, leaving his teenage son behind for the summer. The boy quickly becomes the "grandchild" the elderly couple have longed for, and as Norman revels in taking his ward fishing and thrusting good books at him, he also learns some lessons about modern teenage awareness—and slang—in return.

Written by Ernest Thompson. Directed by Patrick Bracken. Adult Cast with one Teen role.

"Fiddler on the Roof" August 1, 2 & 3.

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, this show's universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness.

Written by Joseph Stein. Music by Jerry Bock. Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick. Directed by Patricia Haddock. Adult and Teen cast.

"The Clumsy Custard Horror Show" October 4, 5, 10, 11 & 12.

The audience will get into the act (as they do in The Rocky Horror Picture

Show) in this hilarious comedy. King Dumb is ready for his daughter to select a husband and all the Knights of the Realm are anxious to claim her hand. But the sweet Princess Prince has fallen for a gentle yet courageous lad she assumes to be a pauper. Not so! Little does she know that this scruffy stranger is Swashbuck Valpariso, bearer of the magic sword and Master of Fast Feet. With audience participation throughout, the play will leave you breathless with anticipation, reckless with abandon and proud to be a Zobian.

Written by William Gleason. Directed by Mikey Dearn. Adult and Youth cast.

"A Candle in the Window". December 5, 6 & 7.

A small group of weary travelers discover the power of the season while trapped in a lonely train station on Christmas Eve. As a blizzard rages outside, the troubled people are forced to turn to each other for companionship. Trying to make them more comfortable is the old stationmaster, Charlie. When the clock strikes midnight, there is a knock on the station door and seven youngsters appear. They've seen the station lights from the nearby church where, in secret, they've been practicing the story of the nativity which they plan to present at regular service. They offer to perform their play for the travelers and afterward, speak to the travelers individually, giving advice which is seemingly wise beyond their years. The next morning, as a new, younger stationmaster lights a Christmas candle, we realize the mysterious stop in the travelers' journey was more than accidental and has given them a renewed spirit and resolve.

Written by L. Don Swartz. Directed by Eric Hart. Adult and Youth cast.

Past productions: A Candle in the Window-2009, Fiddler on the Roof- 2016, On Golden Pond- 2013. Bill Guy receiving the Founder's Award- and our home for many years- the Gateway Arts Barn.



A Candle In The Window - 2009





MEMORIES OF GATEWAY

Do you have memories of your time at Gateway that you would like to share? As an actor, stage crew, parent, audience member- any thoughts are welcome. A memorable role, show, moment- we are seeking your memories to include in a collection of thoughts to commemorate our 50th. Some people joined as youth- or parent helpers- and never left. Some came for one particular role- and had a great time. Please share- your memories are



SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Members are continuously added to the list- please join.

Director's Circle (\$1,000)

United Lens Company, Inc.
Hyde/Dexter-Russell Charitable
Foundation

Starring Role Donor (\$500)

The Goddard School, Savers Bank,
Erin & Abi Simpson,
Southbridge Credit Union

Lead Role Donor (\$100)

Patrick Bracken & Cynthia Keane,
Lou-Ellen & David Corkum,
Cormier Jewelers,
Cornerstone Bank,
Pete & Beth Cournoyer,
The Dinbergs Family,
Joanne & Peter Dirlam,
Jim Douglas,
Patricia & Stewart Haddock,
Charles & Barbara Haddock, Eric Hart,
Deb & Keith Hollett,
Janet & Bob Garon,
Ed Humphries & Joliene Deskus

Incom, Inc., Barb Lammert,

Morrill Funeral Home,
Rom & Nicole Portwood, "Auntie" Ruth,
Pam & Buddy Soper,
Karl-Stortz Endovision,
Ruggiere Family, Tito & Mike

Ensemble Donor (\$50)

Barbara & Larry Day,
Kathi & Scott Grenier
David & Chris McTigue,
Bruce & Linda Bouthilier,
Greg & Kathy Light,
Mike & Jeanne Dupuis

Friend (\$25)

Lucille A. Langlois,
Carol Allard Vancil,
Bill Guy.
Mikey & Kelly Dearn,
Deb Ostiguy

THANK YOU ALL



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, Kathi Grenier,
Deb Hollett, Deb Ostiguy, 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.

Thanks to DAVID CORKUM for maintaining our facebook page and to JIM DOUGLAS for website update and creation. Many thanks to Jim, who is stepping away from the website-after a dozen years as website volunteer. Deb Hollett is in the process of redesigning the site- watch for updates.
WE ALL WORK TO KEEP GATEWAY-- AND THEATER--ALIVE

In addition to performing traditional- and not so traditional- plays, we have debuted new works: Ed Humphries' "Off She Goes", had fun learning from a Boston area improve troupe and hosted trivia nites. There really is something for everyone here at Gateway!!





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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!